



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,909

THURSDAY 29 APRIL 1999

(1R50p) 45p

WHAT A WOMAN. IF ONLY SHE WERE 40 YEARS YOUNGER FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE: THE CULT OF THE IRON LADY



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Milosevic fires deputy as peace hopes vanish



A Kosovo refugee carrying his injured grandson into Albania yesterday where the President, Rexhep Mejdani, said there was growing desperation in the camps Tom Pilton

SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC sacked his dissenting deputy prime minister yesterday after he publicly backed plans for an international peace force to go into Kosovo.

The removal of Vuk Draskovic shows Mr Milosevic has no intention yet of cutting a deal on Kosovo if it involves meeting Nato demands for an armed peace force in the province and the withdrawal of Serb troops and police.

Mr Draskovic was officially dismissed by the Prime Minister, Momir Bulatovic, but there is no doubt the sacking was the act of the Yugoslav President.

Mr Draskovic, a former opposition leader who later joined Mr Milosevic's government, went on television in Belgrade this week to urge Serbs to accept most of Nato's war goals.

Launching an implicit attack on Mr Milosevic, he said the authorities should stop lying to Serbs about Nato's imminent collapse and the prospect of Russian military intervention.

While Belgrade at first seemed to encourage Mr Draskovic to raise the prospect of peace, Mr Milosevic was clearly angered by the way Nato took up his deputy's statements as convincing proof that Serbia and its leadership were falling apart.

Mr Draskovic's return to the opposition rids the Serbian leadership of a mercurial and unpredictable ally. But it is a risky move for Mr Milosevic. He has worked to ensure all major

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parties were included in his government, and thus collectively responsible for the war. Mr Draskovic will now be free to capitalise on any public disillusion.

The Yugoslav state news agency Tanjug said Mr Draskovic was sacked for making statements which were "jeopardising the respect of the federal government". Last night, Mr Draskovic's three colleagues in the 27-member government also resigned. In

Washington, the State Department said the dismissal showed Mr Milosevic was an increasingly isolated figure in Serbia.

The sacking was accompanied by other gestures that suggest Belgrade is in no mood to compromise with the West.

In Kosovo, Serb forces continued the ethnic cleansing of Albanian villages, pushing another 2,000 Kosovars over the border to Macedonia and raising fears of rioting in the desperately overcrowded refugee

camps. A spokesman for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees said the latest exodus had made the situation in Macedonia "very, very tense" and warned that "it has to be defused very, very quickly".

The Albanian President, Rexhep Mejdani, said there was growing desperation among the 300,000 refugees in his country. He said Albania could not afford the \$33m (£22m) a month cost of providing for them.

Western journalists were escorted by Yugoslav authorities yesterday to a housing estate at Srdulica, which was hit in a Nato rocket attack on Tuesday night, killing at least 30 civilians. Nato said a missile had veered off course from the army barracks that was its target.

Although Serbia is determined not to capitulate to Nato, the regime appears to be searching for a way out of the conflict, with Russia's help, that will bypass the Western alliance.

Yesterday the Serbs announced they had reached an agreement on Kosovo's future government with Ibrahim Rugova, an Albanian leader whom the Serbs have kept under house arrest since the start of the conflict. In another development, the party run by Mr Milosevic's wife, Mira Markovic, predicted a Kosovo deal would be reached in days.

Goran Maticevic, a leader of the Yugoslav United Left, said in an interview published yesterday that "this would be the week in which the basic outline of an agreement can be firmed up".

Tories have not ditched Thatcherism, Hague insists

WILLIAM HAGUE insisted last night that the Tories had not abandoned Margaret Thatcher's legacy as he launched another attempt to end the crisis which has engulfed his party.

The Conservative leader sought to restore his battered credibility by making a plea for party unity in an unscheduled meeting with his fractious MPs at Westminster. He assured them it was "totally untrue" that he was ditching Thatcherism.

The move came as close allies of Mr Hague blamed the turmoil on Peter Lilley, the deputy leader, who sparked the controversy last week by declaring that the free market had only a limited role in improving health, education and welfare.

Some Tory insiders suggested Mr Lilley was considering his position, and there was speculation Mr Hague would dismiss him when he reshuffles his Shadow Cabinet this summer.

Mr Hague won the backing of his Shadow Cabinet last night but came under fresh fire when he addressed his MPs. Only one of the five who spoke backed the leadership. Critics expressed concern about the timing of the switch. Nicholas Soames, the former defence minister, pointed out it made little sense during the middle of the election campaigns for local councils, and in Scotland and Wales.

But Mr Hague won applause when he declared: "We are here to take the party back to power, not to have theoretical arguments about every point of party policy."

Earlier the executive of the influential 1922 committee condemned the way the U-turn on public services had been announced. Mr Hague promised to inform MPs before similar changes in future. Afterwards,

BY ANDREW GRICE AND PAUL WAUGH

one right-wing MP said there was anger at the "inept" way the matter emerged in the press.

Later, in a speech to party activists in London, the Tory leader sought to build bridges with the many offended by Mr Lilley's rejection of Thatcherism. "I joined the Conservative Party because of Margaret Thatcher," he said, adding that she was "one of its truly great leaders". He also denied abandoning her free-market views.

At the same time, he insisted the party leadership was right to make clear its commitment to public services. "I will go through any number of arguments, take on anyone in debate, endure any criticism, do whatever it takes to get across this position on health and education that is true to the instincts and principles of our party." He insisted the Tories could change without rejecting Thatcherism. "We will always be proud of Margaret Thatcher and we will always be champions of the free market," he said.

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Dali secretary arrested over forgeries



Moore: Arrested in Spain

THE MAN Salvador Dali called "mon capitaine", his manager and minder, Peter Moore, has been arrested for allegedly faking the late Surrealist painter's works.

Mr Moore, who worked with Dali for two decades and oversaw his lucrative move into mass production in the 1950s, was held by Spanish police on Tuesday in Cadaques, the Catalan fishing village where the artist lived until his death in 1989. Police also seized thousands of supposed Salvador

BY KATHY MARKS

Dali lithographs from tourist shops and art galleries in and around the village.

Forgeries worth more than \$30n (£1.9bn) have been made from Dali's prints over the years, but Mr Moore, who lives in an opulent seaside mansion in Cadaques, has never before been implicated.

Officers are believed to have acted on a tip-off from one of his former employees, who is being questioned about another case.

Mr Moore was released on police bail within hours of his arrest, but was required to make a statement yesterday.

Twenty officers searched his home, which has mirrored windows and a drawing room adorned with tiger skins, stuffed swans and rhino horns. His taste for the exotic includes keeping three ocelots - South American wild cats - as pets.

Mr Moore, who grew up in Co Cork, Ireland, and styles himself "Captain Moore" after an early career in the army, said

before his arrest that the police investigation was based on "envy". "I worked with Dali for 20 years and I don't need to do a forgery," he said. "I have all the real Dali I need."

Mr Moore was working for the film director Alexander Korda in Rome in 1955 when he first met Dali. Korda had commissioned a portrait of Laurence Olivier from Dali, and Mr Moore arranged to deliver payment for it to the artist. The two men hit it off.

The move into mass pro-

duction of Dali's works saw the artist sign an estimated 350,000 blank lithograph laminates during his final years, when he was sick and weak.

Mr Moore said in an interview a few years ago that his first advice to Dali was that he should paint on smaller canvases: "He only painted one or two paintings a year. There wasn't much you could do with that. I suggested that he make graphics, lithographs, bed-socks, shoes, socks, ties... anything commercially."

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Australia	206.90	Israel	1012.00
Austria	106.00	Italy	15.000
Belgium	181.00	Luxembourg	147.00
Canada	133.50	Netherlands	107.00
Cyprus	137.20	Netherlands (p.m.)	6.50
Czech Republic	111.2	Norway	102.00
Denmark	102.30	Portugal	102.50
Finland	1019.00	Singapore	558.50
France	1716.00	Spain	106.00
Germany	106.00	Sweden	106.50
Gibraltar	13.00	Switzerland	112.00
Greece	107.00	Turkey	112.00
Hong Kong	101.00	USA	101.00

GARNET POINT



From the edge of the New World,
a new, smooth, dry full-bodied red.

WAR IN THE BALKANS

"The search for a political solution is a long, complex, drawn-out process. We are at the early stages"

Kofi Annan,
UN secretary-general

"Nato does not target civilians, but we cannot exclude harm to civilians or civilian property during our air operations over Yugoslavia"

Nato spokesman

"We left because they were burning our homes. They brought tanks to the front door and the children were afraid, so we left"

Sale Sefedini, a refugee
from the village of Balac

"No one can sign an agreement that allows the secession of the territory"

Goran Matic, of the United
Left party of Milosevic's
wife, Mirjana Markovic

"You can see what the situation is like. There's mud, water. We're sleeping on the ground. We can't keep clean"

Selim Rama, a refugee in
Macedonia

"I don't think that there are any clever formulas. The time to think about why you are going to war is before you start"

Henry Kissinger, former
US Secretary of State

Refugees on verge of riot in the camps

AID EFFORT

By Katherine Butler

REFUGEES PENNED into squalid, overcrowded Macedonian camps were on the verge of rioting yesterday as reports emerged of what could be Kosovo's worst massacre yet.

About 4,000 new refugees arrived at Blace, the main crossing point on the border between Kosovo and Macedonia, apparently fleeing a new Serb campaign of terror to clear villages in south-west Kosovo.

More than 2,000 Albanians, mainly women and children, made their way into Morini on the Albanian border telling of a massacre near Djakovica. In the village of Meje, they said, Serb police had ordered young and middle-aged men off their tractors. A subsequent convoy of refugees came across dozens of bodies lying in the streets. One woman said she saw scores of dead men lying on top of each other.

"The stories seem to indicate that a lot more people have been killed over the past few days in the Djakovica area by paramilitary troops than in any other single case of attack before," Kris Janowski, of the United Nations, said.

The latest wave of refugees is putting unbearable pressure on the thousands already packed into teeming camps in Macedonia and conditions are rapidly becoming intolerable. "The people are really living in unbearable congestion. It's very, very tense and it has to be defused very, very quickly," Mr Janowski said. "If we get another trainload or two and a few busloads again today it is really going to be a horrific situation in terms of overcrowding."

Apart from the risk of violence, he warned of the heightened risk of outbreak of disease in the camps. Epidemics of measles and hepatitis are highly possible, aid workers say.

Tensions have already surfaced between Macedonian Serbs and ethnic Albanians over how the Kosovar refugees should be treated. Muslim families have been opening their own homes to tens of thousands of displaced Kosovars but the authorities are pursuing a policy of interning them in camps where they enjoy little more freedom than prisoners. The camps are not officially closed but refugees have to be issued

with a pass before they can move around and even then the right of movement is limited.

Refugees pouring into Macedonia yesterday arrived by train from Pristina and by bus from Urosevac. Some were taken directly to refugee camps, because the main holding camp on the border was already packed to capacity. Dismayed aid workers scrambled for somewhere to offer the new arrivals shelter but a new camp being built at Cegrine in western Macedonia was not expected to be ready until later today.

"There's mud, water. We're sleeping on the ground. We can't keep clean," said one man who had arrived from the southern Kosovo town of Urosevac on Tuesday and had spent the night at Blace.

Ron Redmond, spokesman for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, said 3,500 people had spent the night in a "squalid little camp" beside the border checkpoint where up to 70 people were sleeping in tents designed for 50. Aid workers were moving out of their own tents to make room for those who needed shelter most.



Refugees from Kosovo reaching out for water yesterday at Morini, an Albanian border checkpoint

KOSOVO APPEAL



THE FLOOD of those seeking refuge from Serbian atrocities in Kosovo continues. More than 600,000 Kosovo Albanians have fled their homes and on Tuesday, more than 5,000 refugees arrived in Macedonia and 2,000 in Albania.

The most pressing problem is the health and sanitation situation, which is quickly deteriorating, leading to fears of epidemics in the camps.

Independent readers have already donated more than £750,000. The British aid organisations at the forefront of the international relief operation say they need a massive injection of funds to alleviate the refugees' plight and to implement a full vaccination campaign.

The Disasters Emergency Committee has organised a co-ordinated appeal to ensure your money quickly goes to help those who need it most. This appeal has so far raised a total of £25m but more is needed.

To make a donation: Send a cheque or postal order payable to Kosovo Appeal to the Disasters Emergency Committee, to PO Box 2710, London W1A 9AD. Or you can call 0980 222233 to make a credit card donation.

Nato allies divided over oil embargo

FUEL SUPPLIES

By Stephen Castle in Brussels and Colin Brown

DIVISION AMONG Nato allies over how to enforce an oil embargo on Yugoslavia have prevented early agreement on tough new rules to instruct naval commanders to stop and search vessels delivering fuel.

The alliance said yesterday that the issue was proving highly complex and had not, as expected, been discussed by Nato ambassadors yesterday. Instead it is still being debated by the alliance's Military Committee, before the ambassadors are asked to give their agreement.

Robin Cook yesterday told

MPs that 25 per cent of the oil supplies could still get through to Yugoslavia in spite of the European Union-wide embargo on oil.

The Foreign Secretary said not all Russian tankers could be stopped, but he hoped the dialogue with Russia, following the "very positive" talks in Moscow with Strobe Talbot, the US Deputy Secretary of State, could cover the oil embargo.

Mr Cook said the embargo would be given legal force by the EU this week, with the support of Cyprus, which has 2,000 ships under its flag. The

ban would have the voluntary backing of the Nato members, and the support of the Organisation of Islamic Countries was being sought.

There would be a "sharp reduction" in the oil reaching Yugoslavia "if it doesn't stop every last drop of it going through... It does not rule out Russia itself deciding not to go through," Mr Cook said.

The precise terms of the rules are sensitive because

aggressive rules of engagement, arguing that "any visit and search regime has, of course, to have appropriate rules of engagement to be able to use the threat of force". He added that "if it is approved by the NAC [North Atlantic Council] the officers dealing with the merchant ships will give them appropriate instructions".

Yesterday Jamie Shae, Nato's chief spokesman, struck a more emotive tone, arguing that the plan's legal basis still had to be agreed and adding: "We have to define the zone of operation, the number of ships,

calculate how the rules of engagement would work and how we would limit the impact on Montenegro."

A decision was taken last week at the Nato summit in Washington, following the EU's decision to impose a ban on supplying oil to Yugoslavia, including Montenegro - Serbia's main source of fuel.

Although Nato sources had predicted an early decision, one said: "This decision will have to be made in the national capitals. Everyone has different positions."

BRIEFING: DAY 36

- The UN's top war crimes prosecutor, Louise Arbour, will meet senior US officials today to press for access to evidence implicating those responsible for ordering atrocities by Serb forces in Kosovo.
- Turkey has readied 1,000 soldiers to take part in a possible Nato peace-keeping mission in Kosovo.
- Switzerland, Greece and Russia are planning a programme of humanitarian aid to Kosovo after receiving security guarantees from Serbian authorities.
- The American actor Richard Gere visited refugees in camps north of Skopje in Macedonia.
- The Republican-led US Congress is ready to double President Bill Clinton's request for \$6bn to help pay for the conflict with Yugoslavia. But a showdown loomed as the House opened debate on a challenge to his authority to widen the military campaign.
- After four weeks in Yugoslav captivity, three US servicemen have been able to send reassuring messages to their families.

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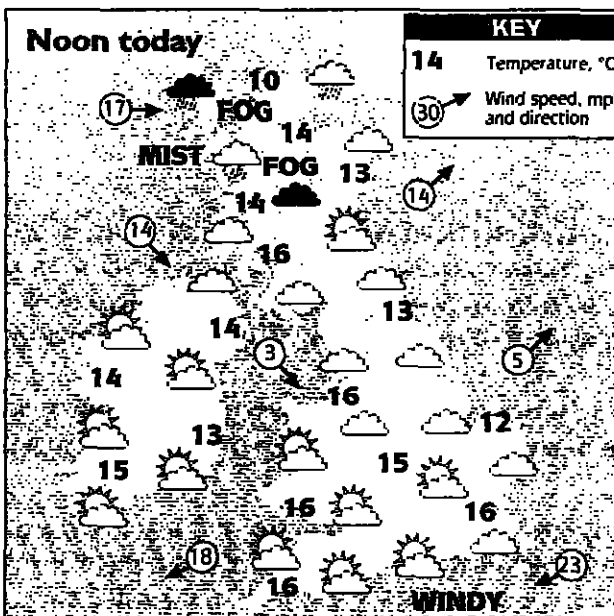
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BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation: Most of Scotland will be cloudy, with rain in the north but the worst of it will be in the Northern and Western Isles and the North-west Highlands. The south-east will brighten up and become warm. Northern Ireland will be cloudy but should brighten up. Much of England and Wales will start cloudy but sunshine will soon appear in the south-west. Many places will see spells of sunshine this afternoon but cloud might be reluctant to clear from the north and east.

London, SE & E England, E Anglia: Cloudy in some areas then sunny spells, although the coast might stay cloudy. Breezy, especially near the coast. Moderate to fresh north-easterly winds. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F), colder at the coast.

Canal 1: Windy but dry with occasional sunshine. A fresh north-easterly wind. Max temp 13C (55F).

Wales, Scotland, W & N Wales: Cloudy, with rain in the north but the south-east will brighten up and become warm. Northern Ireland will be cloudy but should brighten up. Much of England and Wales will start cloudy but sunshine will soon appear in the south-west. Many places will see spells of sunshine this afternoon but cloud might be reluctant to clear from the north and east.

NE England, SE & SW Scotland, Aberdeen, Glasgow: Cloudy for a while with the risk of a sprinkling of rain but it will brighten up. Light variable winds. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F).

N Ireland: Cloudy for a while in some areas but sunny spells should return eventually. Moderate north to north-easterly winds. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F).

NW Scotland, W & N Wales: Overcast and misty with occasional rain and hill fog. Moderate south-west or westerly winds. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).

SE Scotland, Edinburgh: A cloudy but mostly dry start then some warm sunshine by this afternoon. Light variable winds. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F).

OUTLOOK

The south will have sunshine tomorrow, although thundery showers will edge across the Channel. Rain over northern Scotland will spread southwards, moving across much of the country on Saturday and followed by showers in the north.

TRAVEL

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Laytonstone. Major roadworks on new A12 link road. Until 23rd June 2001.

Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 23rd June 2001.

South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Trinity Viaduct (A6178). Sheffield, Cantagway is reduced to two lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000.

Co. Antrim: A1 Kingsway, Durnamary. Roadworks, lane restrictions. Until 1st August.

Derbyshire: A8 Between Derby Southern

LIGHTING UP

City	8.53pm	to	5.46am
Belfast	8.53pm	to	5.46am
Birmingham	8.53pm	to	5.39am
Bristol	8.53pm	to	5.45am
Glasgow	8.51pm	to	5.37am
London	8.20pm	to	5.35am
Manchester	8.34pm	to	5.37am
Newcastle	8.37pm	to	5.30am

HIGH TIDES

HIGH TIDES			
	AM	HT	
Avonmouth	7.30	12.6	7
Cork	5.50	4.3	6
Devonport	6.03	5.2	6
Dover	11.27	6.3	11
Dun Laoghaire	12.01	4.0	12
Plymouth	5.34	5.0	5
Greenwich	12.50	3.2	
Hull	12.17	3.8	12
London (Albion Dk)	10.42	5.3	11
London (Albion Dk)	11.13	5.3	11
Kings Lynn	6.40	6.4	6
Letch	2.54	5.2	3
Liverpool	11.36	9.0	11
Milford Haven	6.30	6.5	6
Newquay	5.22	6.6	5
Portland	6.45	1.7	7
Portsmouth	11.34	4.3	11
Pwllheli	8.26	4.6	8
Scarborough	4.26	5.3	4
Wick	11.42	3.2	12
Height measured in metres			

Families blasted in 'just another mistake'

THEY HAD been torn apart. Blood was caked around what was left of Vojislav Milic's cellar, and there was the smell of meat. In the morgue, they had been unable to fit together the pieces of his son and daughter-in-law and his two grandchildren. Nato's bomb - one of two which struck the homes of Surdulica - had scored a direct hit on the house, killing at least nine other children in the basement, the youngest only five years old.

Mr Milic was still there, slumped over a wall in despair, head buried in his hands, tears draining between his fingers, a survivor who wanted to die. A tweed cap was sadly askew on his head. A blond girl put her arm round him. "We can't bear to see you like this," she wept into his ear. "We can't look at you like this."

Every house in Zmaj Jove Jovanovica Street had been ripped apart by the 2,000lb laser-guided bomb, their roofs flung hundreds of metres around the town, their walls cracked or blasted to the ground, their people - those who survived - taken to hospital in their dozens.

The few who remained untouched stood in the mud beside the wreckage yesterday. Most were crying. At least one appeared to have gone mad.

Another Nato "mistake". How often have we been writing that word these past five weeks? The civilian dead of Aleksinac (26), the passengers burnt alive on the bombed train



ROBERT FISK
IN SURDULICA,
SERBIA

at Grdelica, a few miles from here (27), the civilians killed in the Nato bombing of central Pristina (10), the convoy of Albanian refugees attacked by the Americans (74).

And now another slaughter of the innocents. What did Nato think it was bombing?

"There are no military facilities in the vicinity," Nabojisa Vujovic, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, announced amid the ruins. But a middle-aged lady whose best friend had been killed in the Milic house said there had been a barracks 500m away, on the outskirts of the town. Others said it had been empty. I saw a mass of tangled white prefabricated sheeting on a hillside that might once have been a military store. The Yugoslav military said four missiles had hit Surdulica at noon on Tuesday. Did two of them hit the "barracks"? We certainly knew where the other two exploded.

And their detonations - two laser-guided bombs hit civilian homes, not one as Nato later



Emergency services looking for survivors in a two-storey home that was hit by one of the two Nato bombs dropped on the small town of Surdulica

Milica Petrovic

claimed - broke a community apart. For the house in Zmaj Jove Jovanovica Street had the strongest cellar, the safest basement with railway lines to support its roof - the ideal shelter for the children who lived in the neighbouring two-storey villas with their gardens of tulips and lilac trees. So that is where the children ran when the air-raid siren sounded over Surdulica. And that is where they died.

"Bits of them were all over the road," a young, American-educated man said to me. "We found the head of a child in a garden and many limbs in the

mud. But you don't want to report that. CNN filmed the bodies - but they didn't show them on television."

Alas, the young man was right. History is quickly sanitised here. But in the hospital a few hours after the Nato bombing, doctors were still trying to fit limbs and heads to at least 20 torsos. Among them were the remains of Mrs Milic, her 37-year-old son, Aleksandar, his wife, Vesna, and their children, 11-year-old Vladimir and 15-year-old Milica.

The dead also included two 18-year-old men, a 21-year-old woman and the relatives of a

man who walked up to us near the bomb crater with tears in his eyes and said: "I have lost what I hold most dear to me." In a house just down the road, the same Nato bomb had blasted to death his aunt, Stanica Rasic, and his cousin, Dragan Manolov, as well.

An old woman was dragged alive from the mud, just as Vojislav Milic was pulled from the tomb of his family. "When he was taken out of the basement, 'Voja' said he would hang himself," the middle-aged woman said. "The first thing he said when they pulled him out was, 'Shoot me', 'Kill me'. He

had lost everything, you see - his whole family, his home..."

Surdulica was not the place yesterday to discuss Nato's latest explanations of a single erroneous bomb or its expressions of regret or the British Ministry of Defence's statement - made four hours after the attack - that Nato had had "a good day" over Yugoslavia. "Take some pictures of my house," a man shrieked at us from the timbers of his smashed roof. "Fuck Clinton and his family for this. I spent 30 years building my home. You're a bunch of fascists."

Even the woman who had

watched "Voja" Milic being tugged out of the wreckage believed these houses had been deliberately bombed. "Nato hit the barracks on 6 April," she said. "So now they came to attack us in our homes."

Half a mile away, the anger was just as intense, tempered only by the fact that the Nato bomb that landed there had destroyed the only empty house in the street.

Radica Ristic, shouting away on the tip of the crater that was her home, her grey cardigan splashed with mud, her string shoes covered in earth, spoke only of a small life in a small

town. "We had run into the cellar of our neighbour's house and our home had turned into smoke," she wailed. "When you look at this hole - this was my home. I've been building this house for 10 years. I work in the agricultural school and out of this I made a living and made my home."

Surdulica will now be known as a town that lost its children. And by terrible irony, their street of death - Zmaj Jove Jovanovica Street - was named after a 19th-century doctor and poet whose personal tragedy is known to every Serb. All of his seven children died.

Bombers launch attack on Montenegro capital

STRATEGY
By STEVE CRAWSHAW
in Podgorica

CROWDS OF Montenegrins came on to the streets yesterday to gaze into the thundering sky as Nato planes repeatedly bombed the republic's capital, Podgorica. Plumes of smoke rose close to the city and anti-aircraft guns opened fire on the planes roaring overhead.

The Nato bombing is presumably intended to hit Slobodan Milosevic's military capability further. But it may prove counter-productive in its effect, driving those who are sharply at odds with the Yugoslav President back into his embrace. The tiny republic of Montenegro - the second republic, with Serbia, in the rump Yugoslav federation - has pursued a reformist course in the past two years.

Nato's Supreme Commander, Wesley Clark, said this week that 10 oil tankers a day have docked at the Montenegrin port of Bar, which now appears to be on Nato's target list. The Montenegrins reject this allegation as "absolutely incorrect". They have become increasingly nervous about the prospect of being bombed as a punishment for Serbia's crimes, and their worst fears now seem to have been realised.

But there are risks for the Nato. Bombing would do serious damage to an already weak



Smoke rising over Podgorica in Montenegro after Nato air strikes yesterday AP

economy, and could result in a sense of victimhood that will increase resentment against the West in the only corner of the Yugoslav federation that unreservedly condemns Mr Milosevic's policies in Kosovo.

The Montenegrin President, Milo Djukanovic, has been keen to emphasise that his country is supportive of Nato, and if popular feeling turns strongly against the West, the unseating of Mr Djukanovic will become inevitable. Montenegro could become an unwilling Milosevic ally once more.

In a desperate attempt to appease Nato, the Montenegrin transport minister yesterday offered "open inspection of all

documentation" concerning the import and distribution of oil and oil derivatives.

The Montenegrins insist that any oil at Bar - Yugoslavia's only sea port - is for their own purposes only, and that they do not wish to pass the oil and gasoline to the Serbs.

The Yugoslav armed forces have moved in ever-increasing strength to put pressure on the civilian port of Bar. The port authorities were publicly furious when a Yugoslav naval ship fired from the port on Nato planes earlier this month - they argued that this was a provocation that could bring Nato retaliation, including the destruction of the port.

Until now, the Montenegrins had escaped relatively lightly from the bombing campaign. Montenegro's greatest fear has been that the pro-Milosevic Belgrade army is planning a coup against the elected government. The army occupies key positions throughout the country, and has gradually been tightening the screw.

The Montenegrins have beefed up their police and special forces in an attempt to defend the main government buildings from a possible coup. Most Montenegrins believe such a coup would be followed by a civil war, which would lead to secession and the end of Yugoslavia in any shape or form.

THE BALKAN QUESTION

KEY ISSUES BEHIND THE WAR EXPLAINED

Are the Albanians the only big minority group in Serbia? The 1.8 million Kosovars are the biggest non-Serb community but by no means the only one. Just north of Kosovo lies the Sandzak region, which is home to a few hundred thousand Muslims. Many of those are also leaving Serbia, fearing that they will be the next

victims of ethnic cleansing. In the east of Serbia there are a few thousand Bulgarians. About 350,000 Hungarians live in the northern region of Vojvodina, on the border with Hungary, mostly in the towns of Subotica, Senta and Ada. Vojvodina is also home to small

and declining Slovak, Ruthene and Croat communities.

Although minorities make up more than 30 per cent of Serbia's population they have almost no power. Nor do they have any tradition of working together. The Kosovars look to Albania for support, the Vojvo-

dina Hungarians to Budapest and the Sandzak Muslims to Bosnia. None wants anything to do with the Romanians. The minorities have also been weakened politically by the Kosovars' refusal to vote in Serbian elections, where they might have won a considerable bloc of seats in parliament.

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EU to ban 'hormone-free' US beef

THE BITTER trade war between Europe and the United States escalated yesterday when Brussels announced a total ban on US beef imports on health grounds.

By STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

hormones which are widely used to stimulate growth in cattle. That restriction is highly controversial, and the World Trade Organisation has ordered its removal, unless the EU can prove that eating US beef is unsafe.

which showed that 12 per cent of supposedly hormone-free US beef contained hormone residues.

The British Government last night attacked the EU decision, arguing that the ban was unnecessary because there was no evidence of a genuine health risk from the American meat.

that the US is taking them seriously. But given that the analysis showed that the residual level of hormones were below the minimum human risk level, we believe that the Commission's proposals are disproportionate.

The EU imports between 7,000 and 8,000 tons of US hormone-free beef a year, which is worth around \$20m (£12.5m) and is marketed as high-quality meat. But with a final settlement of the high-profile

transatlantic row over the EU's banana import regime still not reached, there is concern that the decision could worsen the diplomatic climate.

In London yesterday Lord Young of Grafton, the former Conservative trade minister, warned that the world could be plunged into a global depression if the simmering trade war escalates out of control.

"crisis" looming over the hormone-treated beef. There was a danger, he added, of Europe being seen by the US as a "Fortress Europe for Food".

Later, Philip Lader, the US Ambassador in London, sought to play down the tensions. He acknowledged that there were "significant differences" dividing the US and Europe and said his aim was to "lower the decibel level". Last month Mr Lader was given a dressing down by the Secretary of State

for Trade and Industry, Stephen Byers over the 100 per cent tariffs imposed by the US on British goods such as cashmere sweaters and batteries.

After yesterday's ruling in Brussels, the acting European agriculture commissioner, Franz Fischler, said he is "ready to work closely with the US authorities to resolve this problem". But Mr Fischler added that yesterday's decision can only be reversed when the EU is satisfied that America's

beef exports to Europe have been produced without the use of hormones.

The commission said that, until the ban comes into force on 15 June, EU member states should increase to 100 per cent their checks on imports of US beef and bovine liver imports. Commission officials stressed there was still a possibility of averting the ban, if the EU and the US could agree on a way of monitoring its hormone-free beef before 15 June.

Goldman Sachs hands staff £3.5bn

FROM MONDAY even the doormen at Goldman Sachs will own part of the company that employs them. The world's largest investment bank is sharing out 21 per cent of its equity - worth approximately £3.5bn - between its employees when it goes public next week.

It is believed to be the first time a big financial institution has included support staff in such a bonanza. Some junior members of the multi-billion pound bank will be receiving shares worth tens of thousands of pounds.

"Short of a revolution, this is probably one of the biggest redistributions of wealth," said one insider yesterday.

Distribution, however, will be more equal for some than for others. While telephone operators and security guards are expecting windfalls as high as £20,000, the company's partners will collect approximately £30m each.

This week Goldman's 2,500 London staff were handed letters outlining exactly how much they will receive - based on a formula which will allocate approximately half their combined salary and bonuses with extra awards for long-term service and merit.

"The support staff are ecstatic. Some of them are

By TERRI JUDD

going to double their salaries," said one worker.

There was little dancing in the street, however, outside the bank's office in Fleet Street in central London yesterday apart from one American trader, who boomed: "This is the greatest company of all time," as he strode down the road.

If there were staff disgruntled about their share of the hand-out, they were unwilling to say so yesterday. "We have been told not to speak to the press. We are always told not to speak to the press," said one smartly-dressed woman as she left the building.

Goldman Sachs is expected to be valued at about £15bn when it is floated on the New York stock exchange on Monday.

Half the shares are likely to go to its 221 partners while the remainder will be divided amongst 13,000 staff worldwide.

It is believed Henry Paulson, the chief executive, will receive approximately £130m, with packages diminishing as they are distributed down the corporate ladder.

Partners are expecting an average of £30m while a long-serving executive director, who took home £200,000 in salary



Even doormen will receive equities in Goldman Sachs, where windfalls could be more than annual salaries

Philip Meech

and bonuses last year, can expect the same again as his windfall.

A £20,000 a year librarian who has been with the company since 1985 can expect £22,000 while long-serving telephone operators will almost double their £15,000 basic pay.

The bank is believed to have

decided on the US-style equity share to employees, first announced a couple of weeks ago, because it has been shown to promote staff loyalty and commitment.

Certainly, anyone who jumps ship in favour of the competition within the next three years will lose out.

Employees will have to wait until 2002 before they can sell their shares though they will be able to swap a third for cash after a year. Senior staff face tighter restrictions up to five years.

"It is wonderful but in a way it is also like handcuffs - admittedly handcuffs many people

would welcome," said one member of staff, adding: "Some people like the certainty and security of the shares but others will feel tied down."

Yesterday, observers were split on how they viewed the huge city bonuses.

One labourer emerging from the Goldman offices said: "They

are glum faced in there. Too much money, too quickly - they don't know what it's like on the other side."

The wife of a former executive director, however, supported the windfalls: "They work like dogs - everyone from the secretaries upwards. There is no time off. They deserve it."

New Verve split has a Spinal Tap touch

By PAUL MCCANN
Arts News Editor

THERE WAS a touch of the spoof "rockumentary" about yesterday's announcement from The Verve that they are to split up - again. It is the third time the band have decided to part, after previous break-ups in 1994 and 1995.

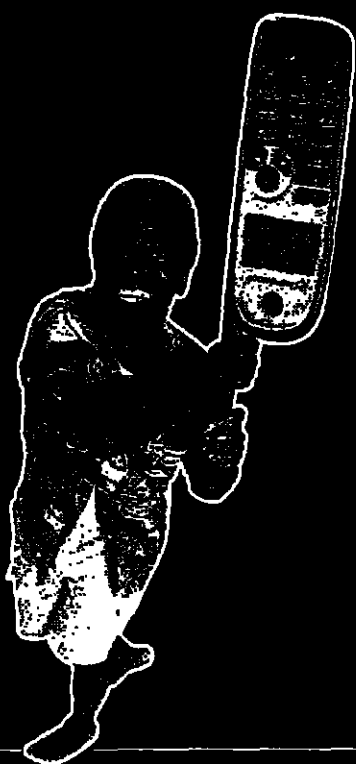
The latest split was precipitated by the departure of guitarist Nick McCabe last year. The band hired a replacement guitarist to play a series of gigs, and lead singer Richard Ashcroft has been working on solo material.

The *Urban Hymns* album earned them best band and best album awards at the Brit Awards last year, and stayed in the Top Ten for over a year.

But bass player Simon Jones said he could not rule out working with the band in the future. He said: "Myself, Nick McCabe and Simon Tong are continuing to work on our own projects, while Pete Salisbury is working on Richard's new album. The rest of the band might work together again. If this happens it won't be as The Verve."

Spinal Tap, the fictitious British rock band in the eponymous film, started life as The Originals, before becoming the New Originals, then a series of other names and line-ups. The Verve seem destined to split-up and reform just as often.

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Fiance's grief at murder of 'perfect Jill'

BY KIM SENGUPTA
AND JASON BENNETTO

ALAN FARTHING, the fiancé of Jill Dando, spoke of his disbelief and devastation yesterday over the murder of the BBC television presenter.

Speaking in public for the first time since Monday's killing, Mr Farthing, a consultant gynaecologist who was due to marry Ms Dando, 37, in September, said: "I am devastated, everybody around me is devastated. I cannot believe what has happened, I cannot understand what has happened. I cannot think for one moment what can go through someone's mind when they do such a thing to such a beautiful, caring and perfect person as Jill."

Mr Farthing said he had last spoken to her at 7.25am on Monday when he called her at his flat in Chiswick while at work at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, west London. Just a few hours later, rushing off to a clinic, he received a pager message from her agent, saying he should get in touch.

He was asked whether he blamed *Crimestwatch*, the programme Ms Dando presented, or her work at the BBC for her killing. He responded: "I don't know is the honest answer, and I don't know that the police have any more information. There is somebody who does have that information and the sooner they impart that to the police the better."

Asked whether he was concerned about the potential risk of retaliation from someone who had been convicted



Police officers searching Gowan Avenue, Fulham, where Jill Dando was shot

through the programme, he said: "Not specifically. It was more worrying, on the occasions when she decided to drive herself to and from *Crimestwatch*, that she had to go into the BBC car park at one o'clock in the morning to drive herself home."

Mr Farthing said Ms Dando had discussed with the BBC the prospect of danger in presenting the show before she took the job. "Jill was concerned to find out whether there was any previous threat. She was reassured strongly. I'm not aware that there has ever been any threat in relation to the programme subsequently."

Mr Farthing was asked whether he was concerned that the murder may remain unre-

solved. He said: "My first emotions are that whatever happens and whatever arrests are made it does not bring back Jill, and that is desperately sad. Nevertheless, it helps me and it helps Jill's friends and colleagues to feel that we are doing everything we can to try and apprehend whoever was responsible."

"Somebody has planned this and somebody around that person will have noticed a change in behaviour, I would imagine, and somebody has suspicions that this person may have done this dreadful act. And if there is any thought in that person's head to get in contact with the authorities, I would appeal to them please not to think any further about it but to go ahead and give the police any information they can."

Detectives are investigating whether Ms Dando's killer tricked his way into the television presenter's home weeks before shooting her dead. It emerged yesterday that Ms Dando's house in Fulham, west London, had recently been sold and that dozens of people had probably been shown around the property in recent months.

The police will investigate whether the killer pretended to be a house buyer to gain information about his target and help to plan the murder. Detectives are to examine the estate agent's files and are expected to question some of those who viewed the house.

Last night's edition of the television programme *Crimestwatch* File, for which Ms Dando had done the voiceover, was postponed.



Alan Farthing, the fiancé of Jill Dando, at Kensington police station yesterday where he spoke of his devastation

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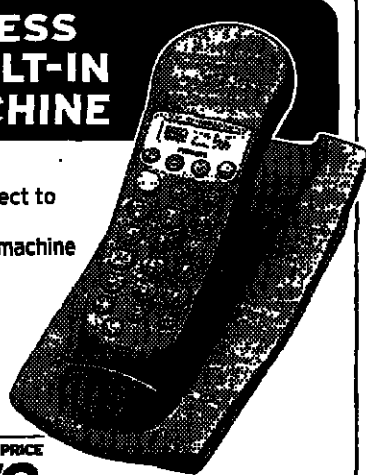
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Police chiefs reject Combat 18 threat

SCOTLAND YARD chiefs revealed yesterday that Combat 18, the neo-Nazi organisation that has claimed responsibility for two mail bombings in London, had been infiltrated by the police and that the group was unlikely to be behind the campaign.

Police intelligence indicated that its membership amounts to the equivalent of "no more than two football teams", a senior Scotland Yard officer said, suggesting that C18 is incapable of carrying out a sustained race terror campaign across Britain.

The officer said: "We were doing things against Combat 18 six weeks, two months ago. We were after their music. We were after the CD industry that fuels the race hate industry, and the concerts. It's where they get their funding from."

Last night a spokesman for the anti-fascist magazine

By IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

Searchlight said that Combat 18's music sales were a "massive international operation".

The group sells CDs by skin-head rock bands including No Remorse, Black Shirts, War Hammer and Razor's Edge.

The Searchlight spokesman said: "They do runs of around 1,000 CDs, which cost only about £1 to produce and sell for around £15 each. They are also merchandising the bands' T-shirts, posters and badges."

The Scotland Yard officer indicated that the outrages in Brixton and Brick Lane, in south and east London, which injured 45 people in total, were likely to be the work of a small breakaway group or a single racist. The officer said the real bomber may have issued a claim in the name of C18, to hide

his own identity. He said: "Beware the flag of convenience of Combat 18. A lot of very strange people line up behind C18."

Among several far-right groups to have claimed they planted the Brixton bomb, which ripped through a busy Saturday market 12 days ago, are the obscure "English National Party" and the White Wolves. The latter are believed to be a renegade gang linked to C18 and based in the north of England.

Yesterday in the House of Commons, the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said the bomb attacks were not just attacks on the Afro-Caribbean and Bangladeshi communities but the "whole of British society".

The reward to catch the bombers has risen to £70,000, thought to be the biggest ever offered for information about a crime in London.

IN BRIEF

Fresh charges for gun chase duo

TWO MEN arrested after a high-speed car chase in Greater Manchester last Friday in which shots were fired faced 16 new charges of attempting to murder police and the public when they reappeared in court yesterday. They are Yakub Olatunde Adetoro, 29, and Andrew Dennis, 23.

'Air rage' passenger jailed

A BRITON whose behaviour forced a London-bound American Airlines jet from the United States to land in Ireland on Saturday was jailed yesterday for four months by a court in Co Clare, Paul Street, 31, of Cambridgeshire, pleaded guilty to using threatening and abusive behaviour.

Y-front raider robs store

A MAN wearing a pair of white Y-front underpants as a face mask robbed a corner shop in Clevedon, near Bristol. The man is described as white, 5ft 10in tall, slim, wearing a navy sweatshirt, black jeans, and his unusual headgear. He escaped with cash from the till.

Lizards share their mothers' fear

STUDIES ON Australian skinks, a type of lizard, show that their young are more frightened of things that scared their mothers during pregnancy. Baby skinks reacted more strongly to the scent of a lizard-eating snake if their mothers had smelt the same snake when pregnant.

Missing sailor's yacht found

FORENSIC SCIENTISTS are to examine the *Tropical Spirit*, found adrift off Northumberland yesterday. Her owner, Peter Bloomer, 51, of Felixstowe, Suffolk, left Ipswich on a sailing trip to Essex on 17 April; he has not been seen since.

Vernon Coleman

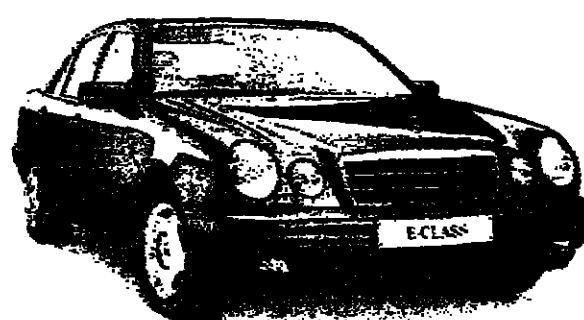
IN YESTERDAY'S newspaper an advertisement appeared on page 13 for Vernon Coleman that contained information about *How To Publish Your Own Book*. Due to a printing error we inadvertently published the wrong price for the book. *How To Publish Your Own Book* is available from Sales Office FBI, Publishing House, Trinity Place, Barnstaple, Devon, EX32 9HJ or by phoning 01271 328892 and costs £14.95 instead of the £4.95 quoted. We apologise for any confusion this error has caused.

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Tories 'near meltdown' over Lilley

TORY KNIVES were being sharpened for Peter Lilley, the party's deputy leader, last night over his attempt to reject Thatcherite free-market solutions for public services.

Close allies of William Hague distanced themselves from Mr Lilley, despite the Tory leader's public backing for his deputy. "He is an honourable man; I am sure he is wondering about his position," one senior source told *The Independent*. Tory officials denied Mr Lilley would resign. "It would only make it even worse for William," one Hague aide admitted.

Mr Lilley was noticeably

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

absent from Mr Hague's side yesterday during Prime Minister's Question Time, when Tony Blair taunted the Leader of the Opposition over the turmoil in the Conservative Party.

Mr Lilley has remained silent - even in private meetings at Conservative Central Office - about why he sparked the crisis 11 days ago by authorising Tory spin-doctors to give an aggressive advance billing of the Rob Butler Memorial Lecture he was to make on Tuesday last week. It was only

on the previous Friday that Mr Lilley had realised his date clashed with another event, a dinner, to be addressed by Mr Hague, to mark the 20th anniversary of Margaret Thatcher's election as prime minister.

Fearing his speech would get no media coverage, he told Tory spin-doctors to trail it in Monday's newspapers as an important U-turn. What Mr Lilley failed to anticipate was the furious reaction inside the party to his attempt to make a clean break with Thatcherism.

"He wanted to deliver a 10,000-volt shock and he succeeded," one insider said last

night. "The message - that we could be trusted on public services - was fine. But the way he chose to deliver it, by rejecting Thatcherism, alienated virtually everybody in the party."

Mr Lilley watered down his speech after hasty consultations with shadow cabinet colleagues - most of whom were angry to learn about it from Monday's newspapers. But the damage was done.

Mr Hague was privately appalled by his deputy's speech. But, at a meeting with his inner circle on Monday last week, he decided to back him rather than disown him. "With

hindsight, it might have been better to dump on Lilley; then the affair would have been a 24-hour wonder rather than a 10-day disaster," said one Tory frontbencher. The Tory leader instead tried to square the circle, insisting that rejecting a free market approach to health, education and welfare did not rule out topping up taxpayers' funding with private provisions.

But he failed to quell the growing rebellion among Tory MPs, partly because his endorsement of Mr Lilley appeared to be a snub to Lady Thatcher at a dinner in her honour. "It was a cock-up rather

than a conspiracy but it made the crisis much worse," one Hague ally admitted last night.

The anger surfaced at last week's meetings of the 1922 Committee of Tory backbenchers and the Shadow Cabinet, where attacks were led by Michael Howard, Ann Widdecombe and Iain Duncan Smith.

"Hague and Lilley achieved the impossible - uniting Howard and Widdecombe," quipped one shadow minister. Lady Thatcher was said to be "amazed" and "livid".

Mr Hague stuck to his guns but the row refused to die down. Two days ago, a senior Tory of-

ficial, Michael Simmonds, a former ally of Mr Lilley who was said to be appalled by the speech, was sacked for leaking the first draft (which was even more anti-Thatcherite). One Tory MP said: "We are approaching meltdown."

Last night Mr Hague was forced to make an unscheduled address to the 1922 Committee in an attempt to put a lid on the affair. His advisers' hopes that he would "pick a fight" and "get noticed" by sceptical voters, have been fulfilled - but not in the way they envisaged.

The disarray in Tory ranks was illustrated when Ms Wid-

decombe refused to answer further questions about Mr Lilley's speech at a chaotic press conference that had been called yesterday in an attempt to draw a line under the affair.

It turned into a public relations nightmare, ending with Ms Widdecombe surrounded by reporters. As the scrum threatened to get out of hand, Amanda Platell, the party's newly appointed head of news and media, had to intervene. That was hardly the sort of task she had expected to perform when she joined the Hague team last month in an attempt to improve his image.

Hague circle 'too young, too remote'

THE CONTROVERSY over William Hague's clean break with free-market Thatcherism has put an unwelcome spotlight on his tight inner circle of advisers.

Conservative MPs complain that they are inexperienced and have shown their lack of judgement during what has been Mr Hague's worst 10 days since becoming party leader in 1997.

Some party officials accuse Mr Hague of a "bunker mentality" and say those outside his group of loyalists are deliberately kept "out of the loop". "They are very protective of William," said one.

Most of the backroom team are under 40 and, say critics, relatively inexperienced. "The balance is all wrong. A young leader needs a few old, wise heads. We haven't got them," said one senior MP.

The new "kitchen table conservatism" - focusing on the bread-and-butter issues that concern voters - was constructed by Daniel Finkelstein, Mr Hague's policy head, and Andrew Cooper, the party's director of strategy and campaigns.

Both Mr Finkelstein and Mr

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

Cooper were acolytes of David Owen when he led the Social Democratic Party. But claims by Conservative MPs of a liberal "SDP tendency" pushing Mr Hague away from Thatcherism are wide of the mark. "Finkelstein is one of the most right-wing members in the Hague office," says one fellow member.

The youngest of the Young Turks is George Osborne, Mr Hague's political secretary. At 29, he has just been selected as prospective candidate in Tatton, the once-safe seat that Neil Hamilton lost to the independent MP Martin Bell.

Allies say Mr Osborne brings the experience of working in Downing Street under John Major, while critics say the Old Etonian is "very Oxbridge" and too remote from the real world.

Others in Mr Hague's circle include Archie Norman, the former chairman of the Asda supermarket chain, who was once Mr Hague's boss at the McKinsey management consultancy.

Mr Norman became MP for Tunbridge Wells at the 1997 election and Mr Hague soon ap-

pointed him chief executive of the party, with a brief to shake up Central Office.

Mr Hague has kept faith with Mr Norman, despite a chorus of criticism that he is

naive about politics. The former cabinet minister Lord Parkinson, one of the few old heads until he departed as party chairman last October, once told Mr Norman sharply: "I

wouldn't tell you how to run a supermarket chain."

Sebastian Coe, the former Olympic gold medalist who lost his Falmouth and Cam-

borne seat in 1997, is Mr Hague's chief of staff - and his judo partner. He is likeable but accused of being a lightweight by some Tory MPs.

The newcomer to the charmed circle is Amanda

Platell, the former Fleet Street editor installed as Mr Hague's spin-doctor last month, much to the surprise of Labour figures who thought she was "one of us." The back-biters at Central

Office are already asking whether she will last the course after a difficult start. But one friend said last night: "She is tough; she is not a quitter."

TORY LEADER'S KEY ADVISERS



DANIEL FINKELSTEIN

Aged 36. Key backroom adviser who persuaded William Hague to reject free-market solutions for public services. Appointed head of new Tory policy unit last December. Former ally of David Owen in SDP. Close to Peter Lilley, advised him to tone down his speech. Diet Coke addict.



AMANDA PLATELL

Aged 42. Surprise appointment as head of news and media last month. Former editor of *Sunday Express* and managing director of *The Independent*. Baptism of fire as attempts to relaunch Hague met by ridicule and controversy. Famously well-groomed Australian.



ARCHIE NORMAN

Aged 44. Soon after he was elected MP for Tunbridge Wells in 1997, Mr Hague made him chief executive of the party, entrusted with shaking up Central Office. A former chairman of the Asda supermarket chain, he was once Mr Hague's boss at the McKinsey management consultancy.

VOTING FOR A NEW BRITAIN

Labour offers deal on independence

SCOTLAND WOULD vote in a referendum on independence before the millennium if the nationalists won next week's election, it was revealed yesterday.

Labour's campaign managers said Tony Blair would be forced to hold "divorce" talks with the Scottish National Party leader, Alex Salmond, almost immediately. They suggested Mr Salmond might fly to London on 7 May, the day after the elections for Scotland's new parliament, to open talks with the Prime Minister on the issue.

Speaking on a Scottish BBC political programme, Mr Salmond appeared to move from earlier suggestions that an independence referendum would not take place for three or four years.

"If we win an overall majority there'll be six months for negotiations, then a referendum as soon as possible."

"If we are not in the position of an overall majority but emerge as the leading party, then the precise commitment is to hold a referendum within

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

the four-year term of the parliament," Mr Salmond said.

The SNP would have to delay its referendum if it was the largest party in a hung parliament because it would be forced to form a coalition with the Liberal Democrats, who do not favour independence.

As Labour seized on the revelation as evidence that the SNP had been less than frank with voters, it appeared to make its own admission. The party's campaign manager, Douglas Alexander, said negotiations on the issue could not be avoided if the SNP won the election. "We would be in a situation where the SNP would not be spending their time developing plans for Scotland but would be on planes to London talking about independence. Of course there would be negotiations."

"The SNP would want to start negotiations for independence immediately. I cannot in detail describe what would be

the position of the Labour government in a situation where there is great uncertainty," he said.

The SNP said that while its manifesto did not talk about holding a referendum within six months, it had mentioned the possibility before in policy documents. Its chief executive, Michael Russell, said he was delighted that Labour was now prepared to speculate publicly on the possibility that the nationalists might win a majority of seats. "What is certainly the case is that more and more people will be talking about the SNP winning this election between now and next Thursday."

"The issue of independence will not be decided in an election campaign - Scottish or British - but by the people in a referendum. The fact that London Labour now agrees with us on the process of independence means we can welcome them to the mainstream democratic position in Scotland - and all thanks to wee Dougie Alexander," he said.

Fury at 'juvenile' T-shirt

THE CONSERVATIVE Party in Scotland was in disarray yesterday after its leader and deputy leader clashed over the distribution of 30,000 T-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "FCUK Tuition Fees".

David McLetchie, the party's leader in Scotland, praised the Tories' T-shirt campaign, which plays on advertising by the fashion chain French Connection UK. He said the campaign launched by Brian Monteith, the party's education spokesman, had his full approval.

But Annabel Goldie, the deputy leader, was said by colleagues to be appalled. She told *The Independent*: "I was totally unaware of this nonsense

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN
Scotland Correspondent

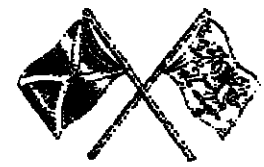
and like many others was never consulted... I have had many calls from candidates and party members complaining about it, none supporting it. This campaign has belittled the very important issue of tuition fees."

In response, Mr McLetchie said: "I was fully supportive of the campaign and of the promotional materials. There is no offensive language in any of our promotional material."

Gerry O'Brien, the party's senior political and media advisor, predicted "one hell of a row" about the campaign, on which he had not been con-

sulted. "This is not a message which I believe will make many Tories laugh." He called it "juvenile" and "deplorable".

Other party officials predicted the campaign would harm Mr McLetchie. One, who found the shirt "highly offensive", said: "The blue touch paper has been lit. This is far more serious than a T-shirt. It is about who runs the party and who is making the decisions the rest of us are having to live with." He predicted that the enemies of Mr Monteith, a Thatcherite, would round on him. French Connection confirmed that its lawyers would be looking at the campaign in case there had been a breach of copyright.



CAMPAIGNS BRIEFING

7 DAYS TO GO

LABOUR HAS buried a study revealing the costs of using private finance to build new schools and hospitals, the Scottish National Party said. Government sources denied the charge, saying the report from the head of London Transport, Sir Malcolm Bates, was put on hold to avoid unfairly influencing the electorate.

THE CONSERVATIVES launched a new attack on higher fuel taxes introduced in the budget. David McLetchie, the Scottish Tory leader, said the taxes would hit motorists and businesses.

THE LIBERAL Democrats produced figures showing that two-thirds of families in Scottish rural areas lived on less than £200 per week. They faced higher living costs and a Labour-dominated parliament would not meet their needs, the party said.

ALEX SALMOND, the Scottish National Party leader, promised £24m for rural businesses including £9m to offset the cost of extra fuel taxes and £15m to create jobs.

DAVID BLUNKETT, the Secretary of State for Education, spent the day in Edinburgh visiting schools.

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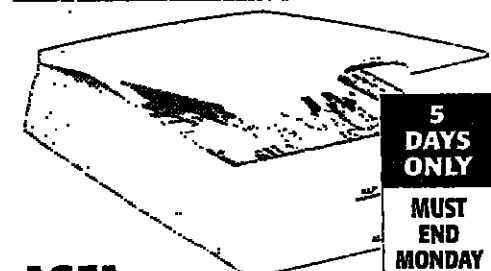
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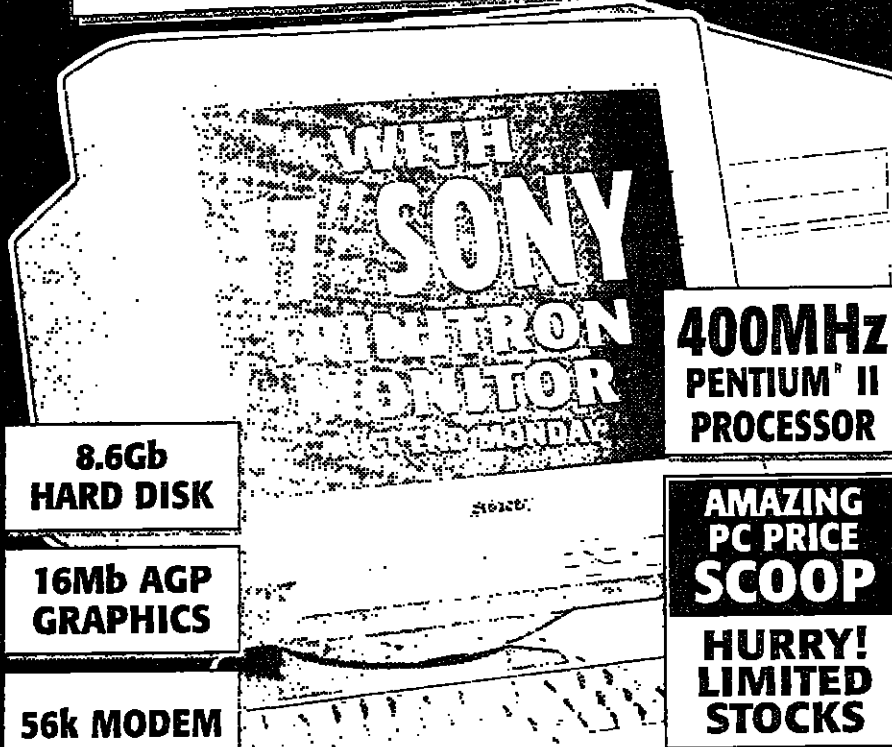
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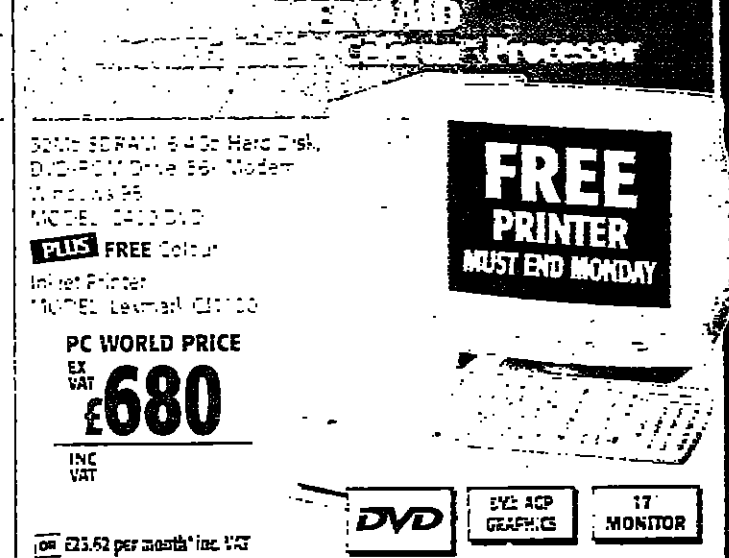
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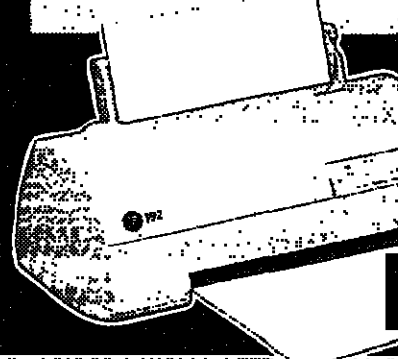


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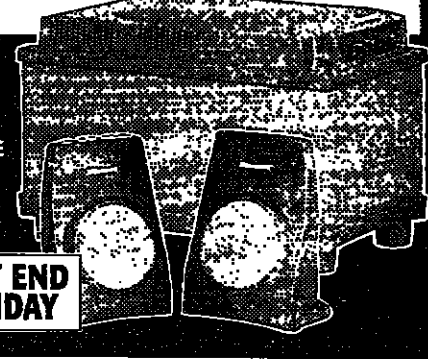


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"We need a fundamental review of accountability. The trouble with one-off reviews is they result in mass redundancies for our members who have often been trying to tell people what has been going on from the beginning."

Simon Phung, aged 10, in the super-stream maths class at Grove Junior School in Birmingham *News Team*

Brightest pupils are 'betrayed' by society

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Malcolm Wicks, the committee's chairman, said: "As a nation, over the last 20 years we have focused on overall standards of performance and quite

YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN



Go and listen to Joy Gardner's mother. She is going mad with grief



IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW



Arto Lindsay, effortlessly hip king of electric bossa nova, never actually bothered to learn the guitar

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■ SCIENCE WHAT MAKES BOYS BAD?

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THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN Viner, PHILIP HENSHER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, STEVE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Half the population now overweight

BRITAIN IS growing fatter at the time alarming rate as the United States, according to a statistician. The latest figures show that obesity has more than doubled in the past 10 years. Over half the population is now overweight and nearly one person in five is now classified as obese.

"In the UK there is a tendency for us to be complacent

BY CHERRY NORTON
Health Correspondent

and say we are not as fat as the Americans," said Dr Susan Jebb, of the MRC Human Nutrition Research Centre, Cambridge. "While this is true in absolute terms, the rate of increase in the two countries is similar. We are simply 10 to 15 years behind them. It is not a

safe condition. It increases the risk of a whole range of life-threatening conditions," she told a meeting on obesity of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Obesity causes premature death and considerable ill health. It is estimated that the direct health costs in Britain are £3.5bn a year.

Obesity in children is one of the greatest concerns for

health experts. In America one child in five is obese and many are showing ill health and social problems that experts say are due to excess weight.

A study published in the journal *Developmental Psychology* shows that, despite the politically correct movement against "fattism", skinny girls are the most likely to go out with boys. A girl of average

height and weight, who was 5ft 3in tall and weighed 9st (57kg), was half as likely to get dates as a girl of the same height and age who weighed a below-average 7st 12lb (50kg).

"One reason adolescent girls are concerned about their weight is that they believe that being slim increases their chances of dating. Our data indicates they are right," said Dr

Carolyn Halpern, assistant professor of maternal and child health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the author of the study.

The researchers followed 200 girls, aged 13 and 14, from a county in central North Carolina, for two years. Every six months the girls filled out confidential questionnaires about dieting, weight concerns, dat-

ing and sexual activity. Investigators also measured the girls' fat by testing skin-fold thickness at four points on their bodies.

Further new research has shown that meal replacements are more effective for long-term weight loss than low-calorie diets. Dr Herwig Ditschuneit, from the University of Ulm, presented his find-

ings at the meeting. The results showed that, over two years, obese patients who were put on meal replacements lost more than 10 per cent of their initial body weight compared with less than 4 per cent for a group who were put on low-calorie diets. "Patients on meal replacements seem to have found it easier to adhere to the energy-reduced diet," he said.

Epic job for laureate of the Dome

HEY SAY that poets draw inspiration from the most unlikely sources. All the same, Simon Armitage has a Herculean task on his hands.

Mr Armitage has been commissioned to write an ode to the Millennium Dome, a building whose beauty has escaped the eye of some beholders. It is to be an epic work, 1,000 lines in all, and he has promised to deliver it by October.

Yesterday, the man regarded as one of Britain's most gifted young poets confessed that it was a daunting assignment. "At the moment, it seems like the world's longest detention," he said.

"I am not yet clear in my own mind where the poem is going to take me. Right now I am just hovering around the launch-

BY KATHY MARKS

lar poet and broadcaster whose first collection, *Zoom!*, published in 1989, was shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize. He is regarded as a contender in the race to succeed Ted Hughes as poet laureate.

His verses on the structure taking shape at Greenwich will be penned during a six-month stint as poet in residence at the Dome. The appointment was announced yesterday by the New Millennium Experience Company (NMEC), which will operate the building.

Yesterday, surrounded by colour photographs of the Dome, Mr Armitage gave a foretaste of what will be his *opus magnum*.

In the NMEC's boardroom in Victoria, central London, he read one of his existing works.



Simon Armitage, who is to produce 1,000 lines on the Dome - 'the world's longest detention'

David Rose

"Two Clocks", which he described as "a Blue Peter poem - one I prepared earlier".

Time will be the theme of the Dome poem, which is to be published in book form and recited by Mr Armitage at public

readings. "I want to gauge how far we have come and where we might go in the future," he said. "I see the millennium as a milestone from which to look back and look forward."

He has already decided that

the poem will rhyme, 250 times to be precise, although he cautioned. "They won't always be full rhymes and they won't always be at the end of the lines."

Mr Armitage, who will receive £5,000 for the six-month

residency, ended with a frank admission. He had not yet set foot in the building that is to be his muse, he said, although he had glimpsed it from across the Thames. "It looked great, all opalescent and shiny."

TWO CLOCKS BY SIMON ARMITAGE - 1999

In the same bedroom we kept two small clocks, one you could set your watch by, the other you could not. The night we lost the good clock under the bed, the other seemed to know

to take its turn, and was a metronome until the lost clock was found. Then it stopped.

Like emergency lighting kicking in during a power cut, or hiking it

half asleep on the back of a tandem, or gliding home with the engine broken.

And since neither of us can talk freely on Albert Einstein's General Theory,

electromagnetic flux, black magic or the paranormal, let us imagine

that all objects and events are open to any meaning we choose to give them,

and that if the absence of one timepiece, causes another to take up the pace,

then these clocks could be said to demonstrate some aspect of our love or private thoughts.

Stretching the point to another level, maybe the effect is causal, and life -

if we could get things right on a small scale, between people - might conform to this rule

of like for like - it could be that simple. Maybe these clocks are a poor example.

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'Why I won't allow them to let my son die'

A MOTHER who refused to let her disabled son die after doctors withdrew life-saving treatment has spoken for the first time about her battle.

Carol Glass, 38, lost a High Court case last week, seeking a declaration that the doctors had acted unlawfully. She wanted to ensure that her son, David, 12, would be entitled to life-saving treatment if he was admitted to hospital again.

"I will carry on fighting for David. It is not just for him but for every little child out there with problems. They are not second rate, they're born with problems. You don't love your child differently because they are handicapped - or at least I don't," said Mrs Glass.

David, one of Mrs Glass's four children, has been disabled since birth. He was born with water on the brain, is blind, and suffers from spastic quadriplegia.

In October 1998 he was admitted to St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, with pneumonia. Doctors decided that there was nothing they could do to save him and wanted to let nature take its course. They withdrew treatment and administered diamorphine, a painkiller that can hasten death.

BY CHERRY NORTON
Social Affairs Correspondent

"The doctors would do nothing for David," says Mrs Glass in an interview with Martin Bashir to be broadcast this evening on ITV's *Tonight* programme. "He was going blue, I just kept on talking to him and, after an hour and a half, I thought, 'This boy can't fight, he can't come back', so I prepared him to die. I sat there stroking him, thinking '... David, I couldn't save you'. But then my daughter became so hysterical. David opened his eyes and I knew he wasn't dead. We just kept on singing to him ... and he started to come back."

"This little boy had a chance. He was in a coma. He needed to be resuscitated from this coma. He wanted to fight. If David had wanted to die, he would have died - nothing we did saved him. He wanted to come back to his family."

The disturbance that was caused by the family resuscitating David is the subject of a separate criminal proceeding.

John Bevan, medical director of Portsmouth Hospitals NHS trust, said yesterday: "This is a tragic and complex case that raises ethical, legal

and clinical issues. The doctors and nurses involved in David's care have endeavoured at all times to provide treatment compatible with his clinical condition. The trust is clear that the clinicians involved in David Glass's care made the appropriate clinical decisions in managing this case."

In response to events in David's case, the trust has arranged for appropriate active care to continue to be available.

Mark Ashton, a consultant paediatrician, said in a statement to the court last week that David had been pulled from his bed to stimulate breathing. "In my view this was extremely cruel. He should have been allowed to pass away peacefully and with dignity. It was not in his best interests simply to keep him alive."

Mrs Glass says that David is now enjoying the same quality of life he had before he went into hospital. She admits that his quality of life is different from able-bodied children, but insists that he enjoys and appreciates being alive. He plays with his sisters, laughs and smiles, and enjoys days out with the family. "He is different, in that he can't walk or talk, but he has got the same feelings



Carol Glass has vowed to continue the legal fight to secure life-saving treatment for her disabled son, David

as any other child," she says. Dr Richard Hughes, who has been David's GP for the past 18 months, said he thought the family were remarkable. "They've adapted their lives quite enormously to cope with a child with a major handicap, which they accept will not get better and cannot be cured. They've looked on him as a blessing rather than a curse."

'Tonight with Trevor McDonald', ITV, today, 10pm

Organs grown in the lab

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

REPLACEMENT BODY parts might one day be grown in the laboratory, solving the shortage of donor organs for transplant, an expert said yesterday.

Skin and nerves have already been grown on specially designed "scaffolds" made of materials that fool the body into thinking they are human. This regeneration has, until now, only been thought to occur in the foetus.

Professor Ioannis Yannas, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, told a meeting organised by the Royal Academy of Engineering in London last night that developments in organ regeneration were on the brink of delivering real benefits for patients. "They will solve the organ shortage in skin and nerves. I am hopeful the same can be done for other organs but it will depend on the progress and funding of research," he said. "The goal is to help people who need transplants."

Backpacker hits quiz jackpot

MOST BACKPACKERS return home broke. Not so Paddy Spooner, a British traveller who won more than £100,000 yesterday on an Australian television quiz show.

The 32-year-old was so desperate to appear on the Australian version of *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* that he called the programme 215 times on a friend's mobile phone.

When he finally got his chance, he became the show's biggest winner.

Mr Spooner, from New Mil-

ton, Hampshire, answered nine

questions correctly, but passed up the opportunity to raise his total to £413,000 - one million Australian dollars.

He could have gambled his money by answering two more questions, doubling his winnings with each correct answer - to £850,000 - and then tried for the million.

However, as viewers of the British version hosted by Chris Tarrant will know, it was safer

for Mr Spooner to quit while he was ahead.

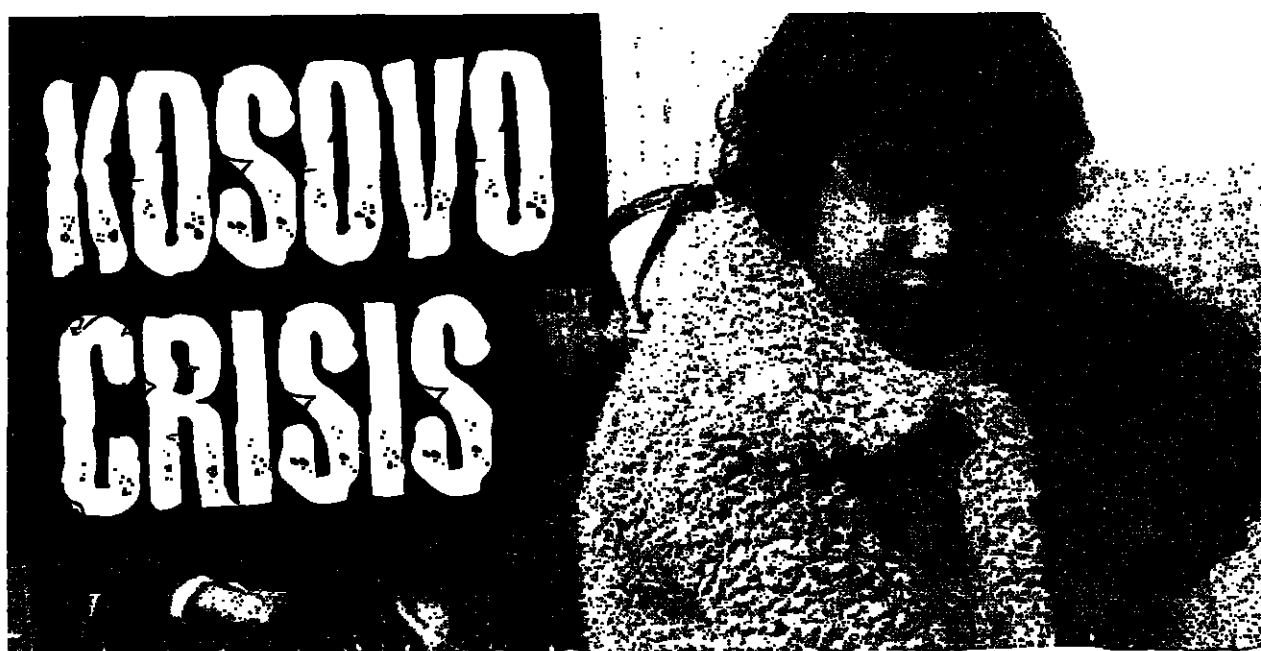
He did not know the answer to the next multiple-choice question - "In which science did the Australian Sir T W Edgeworth David specialise?" - and, had he chosen any of the three wrong answers, would have forfeited £90,000 of the £103,000 he had already won.

Peter Ritchie, a spokesman for the Australian Channel 9, said: "He walked away. When he saw the question he decided his luck was out."

"The correct answer was geology but Paddy, even though we let him ring a friend with a textbook for 30 seconds, was not sure of the answer."

Mr Spooner has been sleeping on a friend's floor in the southern city of Melbourne, but when he returns to Britain he will be able to afford his own home.

Right now, he is heading for Thailand for a celebratory holiday with his girlfriend, Trish, before returning to Australia to pick up his winnings.



Save the Children from violence

The war in Kosovo shows only too clearly how conflict and violence can threaten children today. Over half the population of Kosovo is under 18, so this conflict is hitting the young particularly hard.

Save the Children has considerable experience of working in troubled regions. That's why we have launched our 'Save the Children from Violence' campaign - to change government policy and raise money to help all children affected by conflict.

Active in the Kosovo area since 1993, we have increased our efforts to respond to the current humanitarian crisis. Working in co-operation with other aid organisations, we

are distributing emergency parcels containing essential survival items - bringing desperately needed aid to young refugees in Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro.

We have also set up a registration service to help reunite children who have been separated from their families. And we are dedicated to giving children the long-term support they need to make a lasting recovery from the damage that has been done to them.

Your donation can help the children whose lives have been shattered by violence, homelessness and deprivation overcome the trauma they are suffering.

Please help us now

Save the Children, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD.
Registered Charity number: 213890

£15 helps buy emergency kits, which contain: windproof jackets, warm socks, soap, towels, nappies and baby food
£40 helps keep a truck delivering emergency parcels on the road

Please return to:
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Or call our 24-hour ansaphone
0171 701 0894

Or make a donation online
www.savethechildren.org.uk

£15 ☐ £40 ☐ £75 ☐ £100* ☐ Other £

*A gift of £100 or more qualifies for Gift Aid 2000, boosting it by almost a third

I enclose: Cheque/Postal Order/CAV/Giro No. 5173000 (payable to Save the Children)

OR charge my: Mastercard/AmEx/Visa/Diners/CAF/Switch ☐ Issue No

Account No.

Signature Card Expiry Date

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Address

Postcode 9050554

New interest rates from 1st May 1999.

INVESTMENT INTEREST RATES FROM 1 MAY 1999

		Interest payable annually			
Monthly Saver		CURRENT Gross Rates*/ Gross AER***	CURRENT NET RATES** (illustrative)	FROM 1 MAY '99 Gross Rates*/ Gross AER***	FROM 1 MAY '99 NET RATES** (illustrative)
(Including Fixed Bonus Interest of 4.15%)					
£20	- £200 per month	6.30%	5.04%	6.05%	4.84%
Dunfermline ISA & TESSA Only ISA		CURRENT		FROM 1 MAY '99	
		Tax Free Interest****/AER***		Tax Free Interest****/AER***	
Dunfermline ISA	£3,000+	6.05%		6.05%	
	£500-£2,999	5.75%		5.75%	
TESSA Only ISA	£3,000-£9,000	6.20%		6.20%	
	£500-£2,999	5.75%		5.75%	
Dunfermline Direct †					
	£50,000+	6.10%	4.88%	5.85%	4.68%
£25,000	- £49,999	5.90%	4.72%	5.65%	4.52%
£10,000	- £24,999	5.60%	4.48%	5.35%	4.28%
£5,000	- £9,999	5.10%	4.08%	4.85%	3.88%
£2,500	- £4,999	4.20%	3.36%	3.95%	3.16%
Premium Plus†† Issue 3					
(Including Bonus Interest)					
	£100,000+	6.00%	4.80%	5.75%	4.60%
£50,000	- £99,999	5.80%	4.64%	5.55%	4.44%
£25,000	- £49,999	5.40%	4.32%	5.15%	4.12%
£10,000	- £24,999	4.90%	3.92%	4.65%	3.72%
£5,000	- £9,999	4.40%	3.52%	4.15%	3.32%
£2,500	- £4,999	3.90%	3.12%	3.65%	2.92%
Premium Shares					
	£100,000	5.00%	4.00%	4.75%	3.80%
£50,000	- £99,999	4.80%	3.84%	4.55%	3.64%
£25,000	- £49,999	4.40%	3.52%	4.15%	3.32%
£10,000	- £24,999	3.90%	3.12%	3.65%	2.92%
£5,000	- £9,999	3.40%	2.72%	3.15%	2.52%
£500	- £4,999	2.90%	2.32%	2.65%	2.12%
Dunfermline Gold					
	£50,000+	4.15%	3.32%	3.90%	3.12%
£25,000	- £49,999	3.80%	3.04%	3.55%	2.84%
£10,000	- £24,999	3.05%	2.44%	2.80%	2.24%
£5,000	- £9,999	2.70%	2.16%	2.45%	1.96%
£2,500	- £4,999	2.45%	1.96%	2.20%	1.76%
£500	- £2,499	2.15%	1.72%	1.90%	1.52%
£100	- £499	0.75%	0.60%	0.50%	0.40%

Headstart Account (for young savers)
£1 or more
+PREMIUM PLUS
Bonus interest of 1.00% gross p.a. paid if no more than one withdrawal of less than £10,000 is made each year and the balance of the account does not fall below £2,500.

INTEREST PAYMENT
Where interest on the Premium Shares Account or Dunfermline Direct is payable other than annually the above rates are reduced by 0.50% gross. On Premium Plus Issue 3 the above rates are reduced by 0.25% gross.

OTHER INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS		CURRENT Gross Rates*/ Gross AER***	CURRENT NET RATES**	FROM 1 MAY '99 Gross Rates*/ Gross AER***	FROM 1 MAY '99 NET RATES**
Children's Bond		6.85%	5.48%	6.60%	5.28%
Portfolio Account		5.70%	4.56%	5.45%	4.36%
Millennium Tracker Bond (Closed Issue)		6.00%	4.80%	5.75%	4.60%

		CURRENT Gross Rates*	CURRENT Net Rates**	CURRENT Gross AER***	FROM 1 MAY '99 Gross Rates*	FROM 1 MAY '99 Net Rates**	FROM 1 MAY '99 Gross AER***
AER***							
Bank Rate Plus (Closed Issue)		5.75%	4.60%	5.90%	5.50%	4.40%	5.64%

Dunfermline TESSA (Sixth Issue) (Closed Issue)		CURRENT Tax Free Interest****/AER***	FROM 1 MAY '99 Tax Free Interest****/AER***
£9,000+	£9,000+	6.30%	6.05%
£6,000	£6,000	6.15%	5.90%
£3,000	£3,000	5.95%	5.70%
£1,000	£1,000	5.45%	5.20%

The rates of interest payable on Treasurer's Deposits and Special Deposits for Charities and Exempt Pension Funds match Dunfermline Gold.

Dunfermline ScotGold rates for individuals not ordinarily resident in the UK are available on application.

Details of interest rates for all other investment accounts (including other closed issues and fixed rates) are available from branch offices.

†Dunfermline Direct transactions are by post from the Society's Head Office.

TAX ARRANGEMENTS
* Gross interest means the rate of interest payable before the deduction of income tax at the rate specified by law ("the specified rate"). The current specified rate for basic rate tax payers is 20%. Please note you may be liable to pay tax at a higher rate depending on your tax position. ** Net interest is the rate of interest which would be payable after deduction of income tax at the specified rate. *** AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and added each year. **** Tax free interest is the rate of interest payable where interest is exempt from income tax. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any) a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. For details and a registration form for payment of interest gross, please see Inland Revenue leaflet IR110. Current interest rates are available from our 24 hour rate line Tel: 01383 627780 and on our web site at www.dunfermline.co.uk

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Election hangs on Israelis' divisions

IN THE last weeks of the Israeli election campaign, the mud hurled by the opposing parties is getting thicker and nastier.

Aryeh Deri, leader of Shas, the third biggest party in Israel, which represents religious Jews originating in the Middle East, claims hundreds of thousands of Russian immigrants are not really Jewish and eat pork. The Russians say they are fed up with being portrayed as low life.

When political advertising on television started this week, the secular party, Meretz, showed an Israeli couple listening on the phone to their son describing his wedding in Cyprus. The point is that the control of marriages in Israel by Orthodox rabbis often forces Israelis to get married abroad. Israeli elections are as much about the balance of power between the country's sub-cultures - such as the secular

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

élite of European origin, Russian immigrants, ultra-Orthodox and Israeli-Arabs - as they are about negotiations with the Palestinians or the foreign policy issues that absorb the outside world.

Professor Baruch Kimmeling of Hebrew University says: "Election campaigns are a part of an ongoing cultural war built into Israeli society."

There are at least six different communities jockeying for power. For example Yisrael Ba'aliya, the main Russian immigrant party, which is led by Natan Sharansky, has made winning control of the Interior Ministry central to its campaign. This matters to the Russians because the ministry decides who is eligible to be an Israeli citizen and who is deported. The Yisrael Ba'aliya



Posters of Benjamin Netanyahu being covered over by ones of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the spiritual leader of the ultra-orthodox Shas party, in Jerusalem yesterday

campaign slogan - unveiled this week and considered particularly astute by political commentators - runs: "Interior Ministry to Shas? No! Interior Ministry to us."

In other words, kick out Shas, which currently controls the ministry and has used it to funnel money to its own supporters. Yisrael Ba'aliya's campaign manager says that when

he tested this slogan on 200 party activists the room "went wild with applause".

The fact that voters have two identities - as Israeli citizens and members of their own sub-culture - makes life difficult for party leaders. It is easy to put a foot wrong. One Israel, formerly the Labour party and the main opposition, was derided in the press for political idiocy

when it failed to put Russian subtitles on its advertising.

Fragmentation in Israeli politics was much increased by the system of split votes adopted before the last election in 1996. A voter now casts two ballots: one for the prime minister and one for a political party.

With their first vote, the electorate can now express their collective identity as Israelis by

electing the national leader of the country. With their second they can opt for a party representing their own ethnic or religious interests.

As a result, small parties have grown in strength. One Israel and Likud, the party of Benjamin Netanyahu, have difficulty moving outside their core constituencies. One Israel is the establishment party of the

middle and upper classes of Ashkenazi (European) origin which, as the Labour party, ruled Israel from independence up to 1977.

Elmad Barak, its leader, has even apologised for Labour's past treatment of the Sephardi (Jews originating in the Middle East) but to little avail.

Mr Netanyahu's task is a little easier. One Israel has only

won one election outright since 1973. Its secular tradition offends religious and Sephardi voters. Likud is adept at building alliances with all those who feel excluded from the Israeli establishment. Nevertheless the election will be close. Some 400,000 Israelis are first-time voters in an electorate of 4.3 million and Mr Netanyahu won by just 30,000 votes in 1996.

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East Timor militias reject referendum

THE PRO-JAKARTA militias in East Timor have rejected a United Nations plan for a vote in August on whether the territory should become independent from Indonesia. The militias claim to be defending Indonesian rule in the occupied territory, but they are going against the wishes of President B J Habibie, who has promised to support the vote.

"We reject a direct ballot and anything like a referendum," an angry militia spokesman, John Estevan Soares, said in Dili after a terse meeting with Derek Fatchett, Britain's Foreign Office minister. "We are ready to face any kind of situation, including going to the mountains and fighting for 23 years," he said, a reference to the actions of the guerrillas who have been fighting for East Timor's independence since it was invaded by Indonesia in 1975.

President Habibie supports a vote on 8 August to decide whether the 800,000 Timorese want more autonomy under Indonesian rule, or independence. Sick of army brutality, most are expected to vote for the latter. Local militias have

BY DIARMID O'SULLIVAN
in Dili



B J Habibie: Supports vote

been responsible for killing and attacking anyone seen as pro-independence.

British police are to be sent to East Timor within weeks as part of a UN adviser mission whose job is to help local police to supervise the vote.

Mr Fatchett flew to Dili on Wednesday to see the position for himself. Part of his mission was to persuade local Indonesian army officers, who have tacitly supported the militias, to stop taking sides. "The ballot

must go ahead. I said to the militia that if they are loyal to Indonesia, it is a very odd way to show their loyalty," Mr Fatchett said. He was assured by Mr Habibie the day before that his government was committed to carrying out a "fair and peaceful vote".

Mr Fatchett met several men wounded during a militia massacre 10 days ago. Many were hacked with machetes. "These are atrocities reminiscent of a bygone age," the minister said.

He also met Bishop Carlos Belo, the local Catholic leader, independence leaders and human rights activists. The local governor and the Indonesian army commander both told him that they thought East Timor's people were too ignorant to decide their own future. Both men said they would obey Mr Habibie's orders, but there is a clear danger they will not. The army could easily disarm the militiamen.

Many army officers have made their names and fortunes in East Timor and do not want to give it up. Persuading them will be the hardest part of the UN peace process.

Hi-tech virus hits Asia

THE SO-CALLED Chernobyl computer virus struck hundreds of thousands of computers in Asia and the Middle East this week, with Turkey and South Korea each reporting 300,000 computers infected. Home users in the United States were also affected, but there were few problems with corporate computers.

The virus, which is believed to have originated in Taiwan, was designed to strike on 26 April, the 13th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Russia.

The virus attacks Windows 95 and Windows 98 programs, attempting to erase the hard-drive and writing gibberish into system settings to prevent the machine from being restarted.

"Arguably, this is the most malicious computer virus ever," said Dan Schrader, director of product marketing at Trend Micro Inc, which manufactures anti-virus software. Other experts disagreed - but many were caught off-guard by the amount of damage caused and said it was much worse than the recent "Melissa" virus. Before it hit, several experts were quoted as saying they did not expect the Chernobyl virus to cause much trouble.

The US suffered far less than other nations, with some 10,000 of the nation's 50 million computers affected, said Roger Thompson, of the International

BY CHRIS ALLBRITTON

Computer Security Association. Turkey, however, was unprepared, said Mustafa Uckolur, an electronics engineer. The virus infected computers at banks and an airport and at state-run radio and TV stations, according to Turkey's *Radikal* newspaper.

In India, at least 10,000 computer owners reported prob-

lems. Businesses, banks and publishing houses were shut down and information worth millions of dollars was lost, the *Indian Express* reported.

Local media reported that up to 10 per cent of all computer users in the United Arab Emirates were affected; at least 10,000 computers were struck in Bangladesh; reports in China varied from 7,600 computers damaged to 100,000.

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BUSINESS

National Power could be bid target after chief is ousted

BRIEFING

M&S pulls out of Canada

MARKS & SPENCER yesterday said it was pulling out of Canada after 26 years. The retailer said it could no longer support the business after recurring losses at the Canadian division. Trading will cease this year. Guy McCracken, managing director of overseas retail, said the decision would help the group to focus on businesses which add shareholder value. The cost of the closure will be £25m. Marks & Spencer began trading in Canada in 1973 and once owned two other retailers, D'Alaird's and Peoples. D'Alaird was sold in 1992 and Peoples in 1996.

Unigate near to Terranova victory

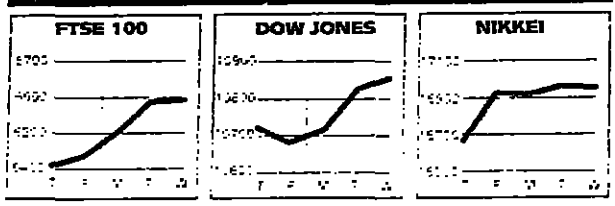


UNIGATE was heading for victory in its hostile bid for Terranova Foods yesterday when it raised its offer to 150p per share, valuing the company at £274m. The offer has been accepted by Phillips & Drew, which holds 13 per cent of Terranova. Unigate, whose chairman is Sir Ross Buckland (pictured), also raised the market for Terranova shares, buying up a further 29.9 per cent. With other acceptances, the move gives Unigate 48 per cent of its target's shares. Terranova was considering the offer last night but the market expects its board to recommend the improved terms this morning.

Travis Perkins buys rival for £184m

TRAVIS PERKINS is on course to become the UK's second-largest building materials company after the builder's merchant yesterday agreed to buy rival Keyline from international building materials group CRH for £184m. The deal, which adds 101 Keyline branches to Travis Perkins' existing network of more than 300, was welcomed in the City as the share price jumped 15.5p, closing at 606.5p. The sale should give the £640m company an 11.1 per cent market share.

STOCK MARKETS



Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6065.10	+15.50	+0.26	6133.37	5452.12	4.14
DOW JONES	10260.00	+100.00	+0.98	10371.37	9232.00	0.82
NIKKEI	14512.00	+100.00	+0.69	14712.00	13712.00	0.52
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FTSE 100	6065.10	+15.50	+0.26	6133.37	5452.12	4.14

KEITH HENRY was ousted as chief executive of National Power yesterday, fuelling speculation that Britain's biggest electricity generator may be vulnerable to a takeover bid or break-up.

Mr Henry, who had been at National Power for four years, is expected to receive a payoff of between £400,000 and £500,000. His removal follows a series of profit warnings and a long period of underperformance, drift and confusion over strategy at National Power, culminating in the collapse of merger talks with United Utilities in February.

The news of Mr Henry's departure came alongside another veiled profit warning as

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
Business Editor

National Power indicated that the sale of the 4,000 megawatt Drax power station in Yorkshire would lower earnings by more than £150m in the current year.

A senior source within the company denied yesterday that there had been a personality clash. Boardroom bust-up or row over strategy. "He was fired. This is all about performance and Keith has not performed - it is as brutal as that."

His job will temporarily be taken over by National Power's chairman, Sir John Collins, who will step into an executive role while a search for a successor from outside is carried out.

National Power shares have underperformed the market by 19 per cent since the start of the year and the company has been widely criticised for lack of direction. The disclosure that National Power had been in abortive merger talks with United Utilities, the owner of Norweb and North West Water, confused the market, as Mr Henry had consistently said he was not interested in taking over a regional electricity company.

Last year National Power caught the market unawares by warning that profits would be £130m lower because of new price curbs in the industry. It then issued a second profits warning, disclosing that problems with a huge power station



Keith Henry: Expected to get £400,000-£500,000 payoff

contract in Pakistan had led to a near halving of earnings from the group's international activities. National Power's revenues from the Hub and Kot

Addu power stations have been cut by the Pakistan government after allegations that the contracts were awarded corruptly. The sale of Drax, which con-

tributed £200m in operating profits in the year just ended, is expected to raise £2bn and is scheduled for completion this autumn. Sir John said that National Power would review dividend policy and its capital structure in light of the Drax sale. The company said profits in the year to 31 March would be broadly in line with market expectations and the board expected to pay a final dividend of 19p. Analysts are forecasting a 19 per cent fall in profits to £390m for 1998-99.

Graham Brown, currently managing director of the UK business, will become chief operating officer with responsibility for day to day management of the group.

Laura Ashley sells US stores for \$1

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

LAURA ASHLEY, the loss-making clothing and home furnishings retailer, is selling its American stores to a management buy-out team for just one dollar and launching a rescue rights issue in a last-ditch attempt to avoid insolvency.

The company said yesterday that its consortium of banks had only agreed to extend their lending facilities on condition of the sale of the loss-making American stores and the launch of the £24.8m fundraising.

In a grim statement, which also included full-year losses of £30m, the company said: "Without the revised bank facility the company would not be able to meet its commitments and, in the absence of an immediate alternative source of funds, would not avoid insolvent liquidation."

The 106 US stores are being acquired by a new company controlled by Laura Ashley's Malaysian backers MUI. They will continue to run the business as a franchise operation. Laura Ashley said it had received no other firm offers for the busi-



Laura Ashley is selling 106 US stores in an attempt to avoid insolvency. It reported full-year losses of £30m

ness. The deal will also include a write-off of \$34m.

The US operation has been a major problem for the company ever since former chief executive Ann Iverson began an ill-fated expansion programme of larger stores. Last year the US operation lost \$14m, compared with £19m in the previous year.

Laura Ashley will concentrate instead on its UK and continental European markets. Stephen Cox, a Laura Ash-

ley director, said the rights issue will settle bank borrowings and be used for working capital.

Priced at 13p per share the fund raising is being underwritten by the company's main shareholders, including MUI. If no other investors take up their rights MUI will own 60 per cent of the company.

However, it has said this would not trigger an obligation to buy the rest of the company and has denied plans to take the

group private. The shares closed 1.25p lower at 18p.

In a current trading statement Laura Ashley said underlying sales were down by 5 per cent.

North America has been the worst performer with sales down by 11 per cent on a like-for-like basis. The UK, the best performing division, also saw underlying sales fall by 3 per cent.

Mr Cox said the US sales and fund raising was "a step in the

right direction. The stock situation is under control and gross profit margins are also improving."

MUI's involvement in Laura Ashley has been a financial disaster. It first bought a 40 per cent holding in the company in last April. Since then, the shares have dropped 55 per cent.

The company recently hired Pat Robertson, a TV evangelist as a non-executive director. Outlook, page 17

Allied Carpets ousts MD without compensation

BY NIGEL COPE

ALLIED CARPETS, the struggling retailer, yesterday terminated the contract of its managing director, Ray Nethercott, without compensation, saying he had known about the accounting irregularities that rocked the group last year.

Allied Carpets announced last week that Mr Nethercott had resigned following another poor trading statement.

But yesterday the company revealed it had received fresh information that, contrary to statements made at the time, Mr Nethercott had been aware of the stores' practice of bookkeeping sales of carpets too early.

The problems led to a profit warning and the departure of two directors but Mr Nethercott always claimed he had

known nothing about it. He offered his resignation at the time but Julian Lee, chairman, rejected it and made vigorous supportive statements on his managing director's behalf.

"I was extremely surprised and shocked," Mr Lee said yesterday. "I had always thought I had known Ray quite well, but clearly I didn't."

Retail analysts were also shocked by the revelations. They pointed to a meeting they had with the Allied Carpets board on the accounting irregularities. At this meeting Mr Nethercott "swore blind" he knew nothing about them, they said.

"Ray Nethercott should get

an Oscar for that performance: he was almost in tears," said Richard Ratner, an analyst at Seymour Pierce.

The discovery that the irregularities had gone undetected for five years led to the resignations of operations manager Steve Barber and of finance director David Pout.

Auditors Arthur Andersen were also forced to step down though it was the audit team which discovered the problem.

Allied Carpets said the revelation did not alter the company's financial position. However, the City has become increasingly disillusioned with the company, which now has only two executive directors.

The shares closed unchanged at 38.5p yesterday.

Free phone calls on Noel Edmonds

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

WAR WAS declared yesterday in the rush to offer Britain's first free phone service, with BT's Scandinavian joint venture squaring up to a launch by a rival company backed by Noel Edmonds, the TV and radio personality. Both sides are modelled on the success of Dixon's Freeserve Internet service.

BT's joint venture with Gratis Tel of Sweden is called BT FreeTime. Energis, which provided the Internet infrastructure for Dixon's Freeserve, is providing the telecoms infrastructure for a similar service called Freedom.

Mr Edmonds will have a minority stake in Freedom, and will become its public face when it launches in the summer.

Subscribers to both services will still have to pay their normal line rental. They will be given a code number to ring, which will hook them into the network. They will then have to listen to 10 seconds of advertising before being connected to whoever they are calling.

Both groups are impressed by the success of Gratis Tel in Sweden, which was launched earlier this year. It claims to have captured 7 per cent of the Stockholm phone market, and a planned float will value it at around £100m.

Freedom is keen to beat BT to its launch in the UK, and is already approaching potential subscribers.

Rover plant rescue suffers setback

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

NEGOTIATIONS AIMED at saving Rover's Longbridge plant were thrown into confusion yesterday after Europe's competition chief warned he might block BMW's bid for UK state aid.

Officials in London, Brussels and Frankfurt scrambled to dampen speculation after Karel Van Miert appeared to say that BMW's bid for UK state aid was no official proposal to locate its future Rover plant in Hungary.

Mr Van Miert's spokesman blamed a "problem of English" after the Competition Commissioner said there was "some doubt" as to whether there was genuine competition between the UK and Hungary to win the plant, and therefore on the need for UK state aid.

The UK Government has offered grants worth £150m to BMW towards its £1.7bn plan to modernise Longbridge.

Under EU rules car makers bidding for subsidies have to show they could have made the same investment in another European country.

Mr Van Miert said: "From the Hungarian side, we have learnt there are no official proposals from the company to locate the plant in Hungary."

It was up to BMW to come up with evidence for the UK Government to prove that the company was really considering a second site, he said.

His comments caused consternation in Whitehall and at Rover, which said BMW had not yet sent details of the UK offer and the Hungarian alternative to Mr Van Miert.

A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said it was waiting for BMW's supervisory board to approve the deal before the EU could be formally notified. "BMW has made it clear that the agreement was won against significant competition from Hungary," he said.

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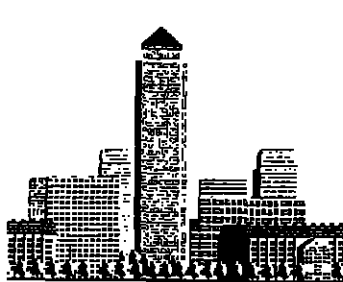
Power giant needs a spark of strategy

EVER SINCE privatisation, National Power has been the lumbering giant of the electricity industry, regularly outsmarted and outmanoeuvred by its smaller and nimbler rival, PowerGen. When it lurches into action, however, it pays to get out of the way. Keith Henry, until yesterday its chief executive, failed to jump quickly enough and was duly crushed under its weight.

Mr Henry has paid the price for a miserable 12 months which began with the first of several profit warnings and culminated in the debacle of National Power's aborted merger talks with United Utilities.

His successor will be inheriting an equally warm seat. National Power's market share has been in gentle decline for many years now. This autumn it will lose a further big chunk with the sale of the Drax power station.

To add to the heat, the trading rules of the power market are being rejigged to curb the profits of the price-setting producers like National Power. The Drax sale will yield about £2bn, but there seem to be few ideas about how to spend the proceeds in a way that will plug the earnings gap.



OUTLOOK

The chairman and acting chief executive, Sir John Collins, has spent the last four years sorting out the Vestey empire, so he's used to basket cases. Going on an overseas spending spree to add to the 21,000 megawatts of generating capacity National Power already has abroad is one option. But first he has to clear up after Mr Henry's mess in Pakistan, where the new regime is punishing National Power for the deal it struck with Benazir Bhutto's government.

Buying another UK electricity supply business to add to the customers National Power has acquired from Midlands Electricity is another possibility, as is buying into more of the gas market.

But neither of these would make much of a dent in £2 billion. In the absence of a bold plan to become a multi-utility, a small mercy for which shareholders should perhaps be thankful, the best option might be to return the cash. Unless, of course, a predator steps in to do the job first.

Yesterday's share price rise had more to do with bid hopes than the belief that National Power has put its troubles behind it. Rudderless and without a convincing strategy, National Power looks more vulnerable now than ever, nor can it rely on the Government's golden share for protection.

Beef bust-up

TRADE DISPUTES are curious things. In a world where everyone is meant to believe in free trade, they are often over relatively arcane, trivial issues - bananas and now hormone-injected beef. Generally there is a little bit of right on both sides.

None the less, they can also be very dangerous, as Lord Young of Graffham, a former Trade and Industry Secretary, stressed in suitably apocalyptic terms to the

Institute of Directors annual convention yesterday. At a time when Europe and the US are combined in war over Kosovo, it seems a little hard to believe that the present tit-for-tat in trade relations between the two regions is going to end in a 1930s-style depression.

Yet Lord Young is right to remind us that it was a trade battle that tipped recession into depression in the pre-war years. The likelihood of this happening again might seem remote, but we should be careful to heed the warning signs.

With its burgeoning trade deficit, the US is in no mood to play softball. Increasingly, US policy makers are looking to destruction of what they see as unfair trade practices and barriers as a way of correcting this imbalance. By the same token, Europe's sluggish domestic economy makes a healthy export performance that much more necessary in staving off growing unemployment.

On both sides there is work to be done in upholding the principles of free trade, but it is impossible not to feel rather more sympathy for the US on these matters right now than Brussels. If it were not for the boom conditions of the US, the

world economy would be in much worse shape than it is. At the same time, a trade deficit on this scale is unsustainable in the long term. Europe's stance on bananas and beef is going to end up hurting us all if we are not careful.

Laura Ashley

THE TALE of woe that is Laura Ashley just goes on and on. The latest bulletin from this Incredible Shrinking Company includes the admission that without a special banking dispensation, the group would not have been able to avoid insolvent liquidation.

To secure the banks' blessing for this act of faith, it has had to give away its American stores for 60p and launch a deeply discounted rescue rights issue that few investors would be advised to subscribe to.

One wonders what MUI, Laura Ashley's low-profile Malaysian backers, must make of it all. Their involvement with the company has been a financial disaster with the share price losing more than half its value in a single year. Its first choice as chief executive came and went with barely a hello. In the

circumstances, recruiting the power of prayer to the board in the form of Pat Robertson, the American TV evangelist, was perhaps the only strategy left.

The tragedy of Laura Ashley is that somewhere, in some form, there is a brand with some value trying to get out. The sad fact is that over successive years the company was wilfully expanded when the group's creaking infrastructure was plainly too weak to cope.

Now MUI is faced with reducing the company back to a more manageable scale in the full glare of the stock market. Given that under the terms of the right issue the Malaysians could end up with 60 per cent of the company, perhaps it would be kinder for all concerned if they bought the remainder and took the company private.

More on Booth

NOTHING IS quite what it seems in Rupert Murdoch's business empire. Officially the explanation of Mark Booth's abrupt departure from his post as chief executive of BSkyB is that he found the offer of a cut of the action heading up Rupert Murdoch's

assault on the Internet too much to resist. He even turned down a \$25m golden hello from Bill Gates at Microsoft to sign on the dotted line.

Well, maybe, but there may be more to this than meets the eye. According to industry gossip, Mr Booth was with Mr Murdoch in Paris when the idea of a merger with Sky was put to Pierre Lescure, chief executive of Canal Plus.

Quite out of the blue Mr Murdoch said that, as far as division of management was concerned, it wouldn't be a problem. Mr Lescure would be chief executive of the merged company. Mr Booth is said to have been so apologetic with rage that he refused to go back to the office for five days, returning only after it became obvious the merger wasn't going to happen. Even so, it must have been clear to Mr Booth that his number was up.

The other side of the official story - Mr Murdoch's new Internet venture capital fund seems strange too. What is this fund meant to be, where's the money coming from, and what is Mr Murdoch doing entering the Internet venture capital business so late in the day? All very odd, very odd indeed.

TI buys US car parts supplier for £350m ICI surprises with £425m sale of vehicle coatings arm

TI GROUP, the engineering concern 5 per cent owned by American venture capitalists KKR, yesterday agreed a \$570m (£350m) cash bid for Walbro, an American automotive components supplier.

The deal is the biggest acquisition by TI since it acquired Doughty, the aerospace engineering company, in 1992.

Walbro, which is quoted on Nasdaq, the American hi-tech stock market, is a supplier of hi-tech components for automotive fuel delivery systems to a raft of multinational car and truck companies including Mercedes-Benz, Toyota, Nissan and Volkswagen, as well as America's big three auto giants. Based in Auburn Hills,

Michigan, just a stone's throw from the main Chrysler research centre in the heartland of the American auto industry, the firm employs 5,000 people at 28 plants worldwide. It has one UK plant on Deeside.

Walbro is believed to have been under some pressure to sell after running up debts of \$388m as a result of an ambitious investment programme. The firm was valued by the market at less than \$170m, making it more than 220 per cent geared.

TI is offering \$20 a share to Walbro shareholders and assuming the entire debt, which

it believes can be quickly refinanced, yielding a saving of \$20m.

The firm specialises in advanced composite-material fuel tanks, which can be moulded into the intricate shapes the big manufacturers are now demanding in order to comply with modern environmental and efficiency standards.

TI's chief executive, Bill Laule, said that putting Walbro together with Bundy, TI's existing auto fuel lines business, will enable the group to offer the complete fuel systems that customers in the auto industry are increasingly demanding.

"We think we are buying it at the right time. They have done all the investments and

they have all the customer programmes," he said.

The deal is expected to be earnings-enhancing in the first full year of TI's ownership before amortisation and integration costs of \$30m to be taken this year and next. Mr Laule said that after the deal, which will be financed entirely from TI's existing cash resources, the group will still have the flexibility to fund another £400m worth of deals, should the right opportunities come along.

Walbro turned over \$678m last year with profits of \$43m pre-tax and net assets of \$78m. It also has joint ventures with Fiat supplier Magneti Marelli in Europe and South America and Mitsuba of Japan.



Bill Laule: TI can fund a further £400m of deals

ICI, the former stock market bellwether, took another step towards reducing its multi-billion pound debts yesterday when it announced the £425m sale of its vehicle coatings business to PPG, the US paints giant.

The sale, which surprised the City, brings debts at the chemicals to Dulux paints group down to less than £3bn. ICI is making a profit of £190m on the sale, which will have a neutral impact on its earnings.

Analysts were taken aback by the sale because the auto coatings business was considered to be part of the core business of specialty chemicals and paints which ICI planned

to retain. Until now, ICI has concentrated on selling off its industrial chemicals businesses.

Charles Miller Smith, promoted from chief executive to chairman last week said: "The deal makes excellent sense from a value perspective and enables us to focus on enhancing our strong position in our core paints business."

Only two weeks ago ICI announced the £1.7bn sale of three businesses to Huntsman, the privately-owned US chemicals company.

Last week Sir Ronald Ham-pel gave his last speech as

chairman of ICI, attacking the media and shareholders for a dogmatic approach to corporate governance.

PPG, based in Pennsylvania, has been looking to expand its paints operations in Europe. Earlier this month, it agreed to buy ICI's vehicle coatings business in Germany for an undisclosed sum.

PPG last year lost a bid to buy Courtauld to Akzo Nobel of the Netherlands.

Shares in ICI jumped 26.5p to close at 67.5p. The sale is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to be completed by the middle of the year in Europe and the US.

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The Independent/Independent on Sunday have teamed up with the newly combined Hilton and Stakis Hotels to offer readers '2 nights for the price of 1' at hotels around the country. As part of the celebration of this merger you can enjoy two nights' accommodation, including breakfast, in a range of three to five star hotels from as little as £19.25 per person per night.*



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Stakis Treetops, Aberdeen	£35.00	£35.00	
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Stakis Four Seasons, Aviemore	£32.50	£32.50	
Stakis Craigendarrach, Royal Deeside	£37.50	£37.50	
Stakis Dunkeld House	£37.50	£37.50	
Stakis Dundee	£37.00	£32.50	
Stakis Perth	£26.00	£26.00	
CENTRAL SCOTLAND			
Hotel	pppn (mon)	pppn (tue)	pppn (wed)
Stakis Dunblane	£37.00	£37.00	
Stakis East Kilbride	£39.00	£33.00	
Stakis Edinburgh Airport	£42.00	£36.00	
Stakis Edinburgh Grosvenor	£42.00	£35.50	
Hilton Glasgow		£36.00	
Stakis Ingram, Glasgow	£29.00	£29.00	
Stakis Glasgow Grosvenor	£36.50	£34.00	
Stakis Gourack	£32.00	£32.00	
Stakis Strathclyde	£37.00	£31.50	
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Hotel	pppn (mon)	pppn (tue)	pppn (wed)
Stakis Blackpool	£48.00	£48.00	
Stakis Bradford	£29.00	£23.50	
Hilton National East Midlands		£21.50	
Hilton National Huddersfield		£20.25	
Stakis Keswick, Lodore	£32.00		
Hilton National Leeds Garforth		£20.25	
Hilton National Leeds City		£21.50	
Stakis Leeds	£27.00	£23.50	
Hilton Manchester Airport		£24.50	
Stakis Moorside	£32.50	£32.50	
Stakis Newcastle	£29.50	£24.00	
Stakis Nottingham	£34.50	£20.50	
Stakis St Helens	£35.00	£22.50	
Stakis Sheffield	£39.00	£33.50	
Stakis Stoke on Trent	£32.00	£30.00	
Stakis York	£41.50	£41.50	
Stakis Isle of Man	£30.00	£25.00	
MIDLANDS & SOUTHWEST			
Hotel	pppn (mon)	pppn (tue)	pppn (wed)
Stakis Birmingham Metropole	£42.00	£36.00	
Hilton National Bristol		£27.50	
Stakis Bristol	£33.00	£27.00	
Stakis Bromsgrove, nr Bham	£33.00	£22.50	
Stakis Corby	£33.00	£30.50	
Hilton National Coventry		£20.75	
Stakis Leicester	£37.00	£20.50	
Hilton National Milton Keynes		£21.50	
STAKIS HOTELS			
Hotel	pppn (mon)	pppn (tue)	pppn (wed)
Stakis Newport	£35.00	£20.00	
Stakis Northampton	£35.00	£20.50	
The Lakeside - Swansea		£19.50	
Stakis Puckrup Hall, Tewkesbury	£39.00	£39.00	
Hilton National Warwick		£22.50	
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Hotel	pppn (mon)	pppn (tue)	pppn (wed)
Hilton Belfast		£33.00	
Stakis Park Templepatrick	£39.00	£33.00	
Stakis Dublin	£84.00	£84.00	
Hilton Heathrow		£27.50	
Hilton National Croydon		£22.25	
Stakis Dartford Bridge	£29.50	£25.50	
Stakis Maidstone		£20.50	
Stakis Maidstone	£39.00	£35.00	
Hilton National Stansted Airport		£19.50	
Hilton National Wembley		£22.50	
CENTRAL LONDON			
Hotel	pppn (mon)	pppn (tue)	pppn (wed)
Stakis Harewood, London	£45.50	£36.00	
Stakis Hyde Park, London	£49.50	£49.50	
Stakis Islington, London	£48.00	£48.00	
Hilton London Kensington		£33.25	
Langham Hilton		£70.00	
Stakis London Metropole	£61.00	£61.00	
Hilton London News		£39.00	
London Hilton - Park Lane		£70.00	
Stakis St Ermini, London	£60.00	£60.00	
SOUTHERN ENGLAND			
Hotel	pppn (mon)	pppn (tue)	pppn (wed)
Stakis Aisford Park, Arundel	£39.50	£38.50	
Hilton National Basingstoke		£19.25	
Stakis Bath	£34.00	£34.00	
Stakis Bournemouth	£35.00	£35.00	
Hilton National Bracknell		£21.75	
Stakis St Armes Manor, Bracknell	£46.00	£45.00	
Stakis Brighton Metropole	£51.00	£51.00	
Stakis Bedford, Brighton	£44.50	£44.50	
Hilton National Cobham		£24.25	
Hilton National Newbury		£21.50	
Stakis Newbury	£33.00	£27.50	
Hilton National Portsmouth		£21.75	
The Royal Berkshire Ascot		£36.00	
Hilton National Southampton		£22.50	
Hilton National Swindon		£20.50	

*This is the actual price you pay per person per night (based on two sharing and is calculated on the 2 for 1 discount basis e.g. Hilton Basingstoke, normal rate £38.50ppn, 2 for 1 offer rate £19.25ppn)
*These rates are not calculated on a 2 for 1 discount, but are offering substantial discounts on their normal rates.
KEY: ppn = ppn (mon) (tue) (wed)

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Address			
Postcode			
Booking Ref. No.			

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News Analysis: The Bank of England is opening up about how the Monetary Policy Committee makes its decisions

Clues to the MPC's thinking on rates

THE BANK of England will today publish for the first time comprehensive details of economic models used by the Monetary Policy Committee when setting UK interest rates.

The move - designed to improve "the understanding and transparency of monetary policy" - according to Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England - follows pressure from both inside and outside the Bank to promote openness and improve accessibility.

At the request of Select Committees in both the Commons and the Lords, the Bank is also to release a short paper explaining the way it believes changes in interest rates - the main tool of economic management used in Britain - impact on inflation and economic growth.

The paper, called "The Transmission Mechanism of Monetary Policy", provides one of the most clear insights to date of the thinking of the MPC. It explains how interest rate changes can have an immediate effect on variables such as bond and equity prices, market confidence and exchange rates, and how movements in these variables eventually affect both output and inflation.

One of the paper's key contentions is that changes in interest rates affect economic growth long before they feed through into inflation. A movement in interest rates can affect growth almost immediately, according to the Bank. But it may take at least a year before there is any appreciable effect on inflation.

Moreover, a temporary change in interest rates may

BY LEA PATERSON

only have a short-lived effect on output, the paper says, but can affect the inflation rate for many years.

Applying this logic to recent aggressive cuts in UK interest rates, we should soon expect to see definite signs of an upturn in economic growth. However, the flipside of recent interest rate cuts - a resurgence of inflation - may not become apparent until the beginning of next year.

Both the paper and the Bank's economic models owe



Sushil Wadhvani: To refine markets analysis

far more to contemporary economic thinking than to the traditional monetarist doctrine pursued after Margaret Thatcher swept to power in 1979. Although the details of the models - spelt out in a 150-page volume peppered with complex mathematical equations - will be primarily of interest to academics, they provide some useful clues to the MPC's current priorities.

To the horror of many traditionalists, the growth in money

supply - for many years the key determinant of interest rate policy in the UK - is assigned a fairly low-key role in the Bank's models. Although the Bank is still a firm believer that, in the long term, there cannot be a sustained increase in the inflation rate without a sustained increase in the money supply, it is sceptical of the usefulness of the money supply as a short-term indicator of activity.

Instead, far more emphasis is placed on analysis of the labour market, as well as the role played by market expectations of key variables such as interest rates, exchange rates, and inflation. The current treatment of expectations in the Bank's economic model is seen as inadequate, and is one of the areas earmarked for improvement. Indeed, the priorities of Sushil Wadhvani, the former hedge fund director who will join the MPC in June, are likely to include refining the Bank's analysis of financial markets.

Despite the theoretical tone of the publications, the Bank denies that its interest rate decisions are purely model-driven. Included with the model descriptions is a discussion of the importance of judgement in policy decisions. Also emphasised is the value the MPC attaches to surveys of forward-looking indicators such as business confidence and manufacturing orders.

"The Transmission Mechanism of Monetary Policy" is available on the Bank of England's website: www.bankofengland.co.uk. Copies of "Economic Models at the Bank of England" are available, priced £10, from the Bank's Publications Group.



Delegates eating lunch at the Institute of Directors annual conference at the Royal Albert Hall yesterday. On the menu: chicken, smoked salmon, asparagus and cream cheese, with wine from Baron Philippe de Rothschild.

First Leisure merger collapses

THE £300m planned merger between First Leisure and Cannons Group has collapsed after the two groups indicated that Cannons had failed to offer a sufficiently high bid for First Leisure's health and fitness business, valued at around £250m.

The all-paper deal to transfer First Leisure's 18 health clubs to Cannons, owner of London's

BY ANNA MINTON

Harbour Club, would have created the UK's largest fitness company, worth double the value of Cannons.

A source close to Cannons said: "The last thing Cannons shareholders want is to pay too much for a business. Cannons didn't have to do a deal. They're

financially secure - this was an opportunistic negotiation."

Michael Grade, chief executive of First Leisure, confirmed failure to reach a financial agreement had scuppered the deal. "Both parties examined the prospect of a merger but were unable to reach an agreement on financial terms," he said. He added the group was ex-

amining its options in line with the strategic review announced in January, a statement interpreted as further indication the group is looking at a break-up.

Shares in First Leisure dropped 7.5p to 246p when Cannons Group was unchanged at 192.5p, reflecting sentiment that the collapse of talks had left First Leisure more vulnerable.

One analyst said: "When Michael Grade joined, the talk was of making proper money. It's all a bit sad but those high hopes have faded. If they sell the health clubs, for shares rather than cash to invest, they'll start to fade away and if someone wants the nightclub they'll sell those too."

Analysts tipped Whitbread, Holmes Place, Fitness First, Greenalls and Scottish & Newcastle as possible buyers.

COMPANY RESULTS						
Name	Turnover (£)	Profit (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-adv
Learns Leisure Holdings (F)	288.2m (34.9m)	21.9m (4.2m)	-0.47p (20.97p)	-	-	-
Advanced Power Drains (F)	3,257m (3,240m)	0.45m (0.57m)	1.4p (1.7p)	0.45p (0.40p)	28.05.99	10.05.99
Academy Group (F)	763.3m (756.5m)	22m (50.3m)	-	10.7p (19.59p)	25.07.99	21.06.99
Stagion Plastics (F)	43.41m (23.97m)	3.57m (2.13m)	-	2.79p (3.26p)	-	-
Canary Wharf Group (F)	38.6m (31.7m)	26.5m (44.6m)	-14.6p (-22.00p)	-	-	-
Carri's Whiting Industries (F)	41.04m (41.85m)	0.25m (0.52m)	8.6p (5.5p)	3p (5p)	02.06.99	10.05.99
Fluorine Group (F)	5.32m (4.70m)	-2.62m (-1.98m)	-0.71p (-1.30p)	-	02.06.99	28.06.99
Granville Holdings (F)	204.15m (184.53m)	7.73m (25.57m)	10.05p (11.13p)	7.60p (7.20p)	02.06.99	28.06.99
De-Dee (F)	0.327m (0.310m)	-0.09m (-0.10m)	-2.3p (-1.04p)	-	-	-
Ryan Holdings (F)	81.13m (28.45m)	6.13m (5.02m)	7.84p (6.75p)	2.7p (-)	30.05.99	10.05.99
Steel (F)	21.3m (10.2m)	0.92m (1.63m)	3.8p (4.6p)	0.6p (-)	28.07.99	02.07.99
Westminster Energy (F)	0.061m (0.170m)	-0.03m (0.013m)	-0.3p (0.2p)	-	-	-

(F) - First (F) - First (F) - First (F) - First (F) - First (F) - First (F)

IN BRIEF

Standard buys Thai bank

STANDARD Chartered, the UK-based banking group, is taking control of Thailand's Nakornthon Bank for £55m. The group has agreed to underwrite the recapitalisation of the bank, which has had to be bailed out by the Thai government following last year's financial collapse.

Grundig grows

GRUNDIG UK is creating more than 120 new jobs over the next year as it set up a new digital set top box factory in South Wales, to meet the growing demand for digital television. The job creation comes after a major investment programme last year prompted by a large set top box contract from BSkyB.

Nuts for Bensons

BENSONS CRISPS, which produces branded and own-label crisps and snacks, has conditionally agreed to buy Country Harvest, the dried fruits, speciality rice and nut producer, for up to £6.7m. Bensons said the company will be earnings enhancing for the first full year after the acquisition. It said it has written approval from shareholders who own around 42.5 per cent of the company.

Scottish Radio

SCOTTISH Radio Holdings has bought Parkin Advertising, a Bristol-based outdoor contractor, for £8.9m. In the year to 31 March 1999 Parkin made pre-tax profits of £0.61m on turnover of £3.59m. The company's net assets at that date were £0.85m. SRH said it had no plans to cut staff numbers at Parkin and the company's managing director, Mike Parkin, would remain in his post.

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS FOR CONFIRMATION OF BYELAWS RELATING TO CENTRAL TRAINS LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 67 of the Transport Act 1962 and section 129 of the Railways Act 1993 that Central Trains has made byelaws relating to Central Trains Limited and intends to apply to the Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions for his confirmation.

A copy of the byelaws in respect of which application for confirmation is to be made can be inspected free of charge for a period of 28 days starting from the date of this notice appearing, at the following addresses between the hours of 09.00 and 16.00 Mondays to Fridays:

Ticket Office, Birmingham Snow Hill station, 7 Colmore Row, Birmingham B1 2HS.

Duty Manager, Platform 3, Nottingham station, Carrington St, Nottingham NG2 3AQ.

Station Manager's Office, Shrewsbury station, Castle Foregate, Shrewsbury SY1 2DQ.

A copy of the byelaws can be obtained for a charge of 50p per copy by writing to Central Trains Limited, MP 532, P.O. Box 4323, Birmingham B1 1TH.

During the 28 day period any person affected by the new byelaws may make representation to the Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions by writing to him at the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, Zone 3/3 (Bye-laws), Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4RP.

Dated: 10th April 1999.

Jenny Casson,
Company Secretary for and on behalf of:
Central Trains Limited,
Worthy Park House,
Abbots Worthy,
Winchester SO21 1AN.

Insolvency Act 1986
CTIS (CONTRACT INTERIORS) LIMITED
(In Administration)

NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of creditors in the above matter is to be held at the offices of Smith & Williamson, No 1 Roding House Street, London W1A 3AS on 28 May 1999 at 11.15 am to consider my proposals under Section 231(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986, and to consider establishing a committee of creditors.

In order for creditors to be able to vote, proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged, together with details of their claims at No 1 Roding House Street, London W1A 3AS not later than 12.00 noon on 22nd April 1999.

Dated 22nd April 1999
F J YELDON, Joint Administrator

Insolvency Act 1986
CTIS (JONNEY) LIMITED
(In Administration)

NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of creditors in the above matter is to be held at the offices of Smith & Williamson, No 1 Roding House Street, London W1A 3AS on 28 May 1999 at 11.15 am to consider my proposals under Section 231(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986, and to consider establishing a committee of creditors.

In order for creditors to be able to vote, proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged, together with details of their claims at No 1 Roding House Street, London W1A 3AS not later than 12.00 noon on 22nd April 1999.

Dated 22nd April 1999
F J YELDON, Joint Administrator

Insolvency Act 1986
CTIS (HOLDINGS) LIMITED
(In Administration)

NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of creditors in the above matter is to be held at the offices of Smith & Williamson, No 1 Roding House Street, London W1A 3AS on 28 May 1999 at 11.15 am to consider my proposals under Section 231(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986, and to consider establishing a committee of creditors.

In order for creditors to be able to vote, proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged, together with details of their claims at No 1 Roding House Street, London W1A 3AS not later than 12.00 noon on 22nd April 1999.

Dated 22nd April 1999
F J YELDON, Joint Administrator

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Civil Service Post Office and British Telecommunications Limited Fund.
Scheme to amend governing document.
Reference: PC 2487/92/2 - CD

The Commission proposes to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Charity Commission at Harmondsworth House, 13-15 Bowyer Street, London, EC4A 3DF quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

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D. L. WARD (Liquidator)
Note: This notice is purely formal and all claims of creditors' debts must be paid in full.

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Takeover talk swirls round dealers' darling

INDEPENDENT INSURANCE, one of the stockmarket's darlings, caught dealers' eyes yesterday amid talk that a predator is preparing a takeover strike.

The bid rumour was accompanied by whispers that the hugely successful independent will unveil a bullish trading statement at today's shareholder meeting.

The double boost sent the shares 26p higher to 258.5p on volume of over 1.4m. The "spot-the-bidder" game focused on both domestic and overseas companies.

On the UK front, Lloyds TSB, up 17.5p to 1.015p, was the name in the frame. The black horse bank has made no mystery of its ambitions to branch out in other financial services and its name has also been linked to Allied Irish Banks, 8.5p higher to 102.75p.

The list of potential overseas bidders was bulging with names, with the Australian insurance giant AMP in pole position. The Oz's group chief

executive, George Trumbull, fanned the bid speculation yesterday, revealing that AMP is still looking to expand in Europe, the US or the UK.

In Britain, AMP owns the mutual insurer NPI, bought for over £1bn last year. Pearl Assurance and the fund manager Henderson Investors.

Independent's insiders played down the bid rumour but dealers said that the company would be a hell of a buy for a UK bank or a foreign insurer, especially after a recent fall in its highly-rated share price.

Its founder and chief executive Michael Bright has built a focused business that specialises in commercial lines such as property insurance. A tight control of underwriting risk has helped independent to outperform some of its larger rivals and the shares have soared from 45p in the 1993 float to a peak of 390p in 1998.

The good state of independent's business should be confirmed at today's AGM, when Mr Bright, who owns a stake of nearly 6 per cent in the group, will update investors.

Among independent's competitors, Royal & Sun and CGU yesterday said that in the first quarter UK insurance sales were subdued, while international demand was buoyant. The statements left Royal 1.5p higher at 527p and CGU 5p lower at 978p.

Prudential was the highest flying blue-chip, putting on 50p

MARKET REPORT



FRANCESCO GUERRERA

to 919.5p as Warburg said "buy" and the takeover of M&G went unconditional.

The rest of the market was rather sluggish, finishing modestly higher after Tuesday's record-breaking session. The FTSE 100 ended 5.2 up at 6,598.8, the second all-time high in two days. The mid-cap closed 5 points higher at 5,813.7, while the Small Cap posted a 5.9 rise to 2,548.3.

A slump in bond prices had little impact on stock prices. Gilts hit an eight-week low after the auction of £500m-worth of long-dated paper was massively undersubscribed.

Kingfisher hit an all-time high, after rising 38.5p to 921.5p on continuing excitement over its pan-European Internet service. The B&Q-to-Cornet retail empire's merger partner Asda bagged a 7.5p increase to 208p as rumours of a counterbid by Wal-Mart returned.

The US giant's spectrum was also haunting Safeway, where 7.6m shares changed hands. However, the supermarket chain lost 8.75p to 258.75p and dealers said the high turnover was probably due to the unwinding of a couple of large positions.

The clothes retailer Arcadia put on 32.5p to 272.5p as brokers warmed to its interim results.

National Power was firm in the bid frame after the surprise departure of the chief executive Keith Henry. Shares in the generator surged 15p to 496.75p amid talk that a US power group could strike.

Enron, Duke Energy, Southern Co and Reliant Energy were all mentioned. John Devaney, the former boss of The Energy Group, and his financial backers could also have a go.

The demise of another chief, Mark Booth at BskyB, caused a 29.5p fall to 550p in the satellite company as investors switched off.

British Aerospace flew 12p higher to 478.25p after confirming talks over a pan-European missile. Unilever,

results today, rose 15.5p higher to 593p amid talk that it might bid for Revlon of France. The computer group Misys suffered from a US competitor's profits warning and crashed 25.5p to 579.5p.

The other big bid came in the undercard. The car-parts group Partco soared 53.5p to 233.5p after saying it was in advanced negotiations over a 245p-per-share cash offer. The privately-owned Unipart was the hot favourite, with one-time suitor Finetel and Ford, the recent buyer of Kwik-Fit, also mentioned.

Leisure stocks had a busy session. Stanley Leisure, the casino and bookie group, fell 5.5p to 248.5p after warning that poor racing margins will depress profits. The announcement unnerved Ladbroke. The UK's biggest bookmaker was a non-runner, losing 18.25p to 293.5p.

First Leisure did not look amused after losing 7.5p to 236p following the collapse of talks

NEWS of a large stake-buying at Artisan, a builder run by the entrepreneur Stephen Dean and listed on the Alternative Investment Market. The tax-exile investor David Rowland yesterday acquired 15.4 per cent in the company through his investment vehicle Rosebowl.

Insiders say that it is unclear whether the purchase will lead to a takeover of Mr Dean's latest venture, Artisan shares rose 0.75p to an all-time peak of 8p.

over the merger of its fitness unit with Cannons, unchanged at 192.5p. First could now be targeted by a big insurer group. Whitbread, down 15.5p to 1,049.5p, is the favourite but Bass, down 10p to 970p, Scottish & Newcastle, up 15p to 779.5p, and Greenalls, flat at 369p, could also launch a bid.

Fellow drinks group Allied Domecq downed a 3.5p fall to 509.5p on nervousness about today's results. A demerger of the drinks division could be on the cards.

Tomkins, the metal-basher, plunged 22.5p to 243p, hit by some late below-price deals. The catering group Compass was also shaken by some roguish trades, shedding 27p to 66p. Affinity Internet logged on a 34p rise to 176.5p after winning the contract to put the Pru's bank egg on-line. Another net minnow On-Line rose 22.5p after cutting interim losses.

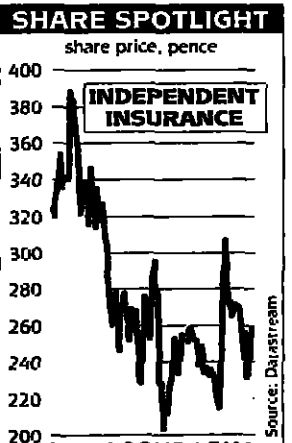
Focus Dynamics, the engineer, jumped 5p to 35.5p after revealing a bid approach. The electrical distributor Sedgemoor rose 5p to 46p after receiving a 50.8p per share offer from rival Acal, unchanged at 460p.

The tool hire group Vibromat, drilled a 7p rise to 65p after saying that its management want to buy at 70 to 75p per share.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.18BN
SEAQ TRADES: 79,192
GILTS: 110.09 -0.30



SHARE SPOTLIGHT
share price, pence



SHARE SPOTLIGHT
share price, pence

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British Aerospace flew 12p higher to 478.25p after confirming talks over a pan-European missile. Unilever,

Arcadia in positive mood despite sharp profits fall

ARCADIA, the Dorothy Perkins and Burton Menswear retailer that issued a profits warning in December, confirmed the sharp fall in first-half profits yesterday after a slump in demand over Christmas forced the group into a huge discounting programme.

However, the company's shares soared 13 per cent to 272.5p as the City responded to more encouraging news on current trading.

"It is not a strong recovery but we are starting to see more encouraging signs," said Arcadia's finance director Nigel Hall.

Sales in the eight weeks to mid-April are ahead of last year with sales densities in line with expectations.

Arcadia said the women's wear market, which had a tough 1998, is starting to recover helped by strong fashion trends such as Skousers - skirts worn over a pair of trousers and ethnic-looking embroidered blouses.

Mr Hall said consumers are remaining value conscious and that Arcadia's stores are run-

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

ning a series of promotions such as two pairs of jeans for £35 in a bid to boost sales.

The news was a welcome boost for beleaguered Arcadia shareholders, who have seen their shares underperform the market by 47 per cent since the former Burton group demerged Debenhams in December 1997.

The company blamed the first-half profit fall from £32m to £30m on "some of the toughest trading weeks the clothing market has seen".

The weak women's clothing market took its toll on Arcadia's Top Shop and Dorothy Perkins. Operating margins fell from 6.6 per cent to 3.9 per cent as the company moved to cut prices to shift stock in the January sale.

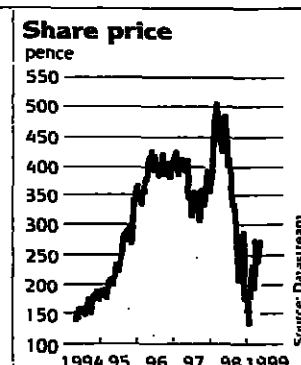
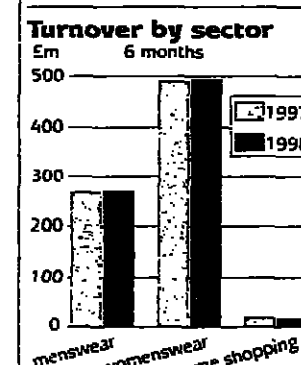
Costs as a percentage of sales also rose as turnover remained weak.

Arcadia has made progress in becoming a "multi-channel retailer". It is investing in a home-shopping service with catalogues for its Racing

ARCADIA GROUP: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £514m, share price 272.5p (+32.5p)

	1996	1997	1998	97/98	98/99
Five-year record	2,006	2,562	2,108	775.4	774.8
Turnover (£m)	151.6	121.0	165.9	50.3	23.0
Pre-tax profits (£m)	62.4	45.7	61.7	19.5	8.8
Earnings per share (p)	22.4	27.2	11.7	4.7	4.7
Dividends per share (p)					



Green, Hawkshead, Evans and Dorothy Perkins brands.

The company is set to achieve £1m of clothing sales on the Internet this year, making it the UK's number one in on-

line clothing sales. It is also taking part in digital television trials on Shop, the Carlton-Littlewoods joint venture.

The steep fall in interest rates and receding fears of

recession should help retailers this year.

And a value-conscious approach from consumers should play into Arcadia's hands as many of its formats, such as Top Shop, are regarded as lower price offers.

But some analysts remain sceptical on whether the bounce in the Arcadia's share price can be sustained.

They point out that Arcadia utilised £7m of provisions in the first half and that it faces a higher interest charge.

Competitive pressures are also set to increase from the wounded Marks & Spencer, New Look and Asda's George brand, which could achieve fresh momentum if its merger with Kingfisher goes through.

SG Securities is forecasting full-year profits of £51m. It suggests that on a forward multiple of less than 15 the shares are a buy.

Others analysts are more cautious saying the clothing market will remain volatile this year and that there are cheaper retail stocks around.

Stanley hit by Retail investment boom takes UK insurers higher

BY ANNA MINTON

STANLEY LEISURE yesterday issued its second profits warning in a month blaming falling margins in the betting division as a six-month run of results continued to favour the punters.

Stanley, which is in the midst of a £86.4m agreed deal to buy casino operator Capital Corporation, said pre-tax profits for the year ending 2 May 1999 would be "not less" than £23m, compared with last year's £23.9m.

Last year Stanley took £10m in the second half, of which £2m was from the amusements sector. This year's forecasts show second-half figures are down to about £3.5m, with the same £2m holding steady from the amusements.

The low margins in the betting business are being attributed to a combination of bad luck and consistently wet weather, which has left pun-

ters well-placed to predict winners.

"A well-fancied horse won the Grand National and a favourite won the Lincoln. They probably lost a million more than they thought on the Grand National," an analyst said.

However, there are worries in the market that the sales mix in betting is changing away from the horses and towards football, which may lead to more consistently predictable results and lower margins for operators.

"A lot depends on whether this is a structural problem or just a six-month issue which will reverse as luck turns," said one analyst.

With the shares closing 5p lower at 246.5p, the stock is trading on a forward multiple of 18. Hold.

BY ANDREW VERITY

TWO OF the UK's biggest insurers confirmed the boom in retail investments yesterday when they both recorded a jump in sales of around a quarter in the first three months of the year.

CGU Life, the investment arm of CGU, saw worldwide sales of life insurance, pensions and investments surge 29 per cent to £1.8bn. Royal & Sun Alliance, its smaller rival, recorded a 24 per cent jump.

CGU saw a near-trebling of sales of Personal Equity Plans and unit trusts as UK customers rushed to invest before the 5 April deadline. Savers, hit by low interest rates on deposit accounts, also poured money into the group's Portfolio Bond, a cautious stock market investment.

CGU has embarked on a European expansion, buying the German life insurer Berlinische Lebensversicherung last year. After a difficult year for its French operations in 1998, the

expansion is bearing fruit. The strategy has been proved in Poland, where the government has announced the gradual privatisation of pensions, with the state paying around 7 per cent of wages into a private pension for everyone under 30.



Bob Scott, chief executive of CGU Life

On a bullish view of the sector, both valuations appear low. But Salomon Smith Barney warned that margins on pensions and savings are shrinking - at least in the UK. Hold.

A tale of two tastings

THE CITY press corps faced a vexing dilemma on Tuesday night: whether to go to the German beer tasting at Commerzbank, or the French wine tasting at AXA.

Such are the travails of City journalism. In the event, I elected for the wheat beers of Germany while a colleague of mine opted for the vin, courtesy of France's biggest insurer. We both started off with the same intention, to go to both in the same night. Neither of us made it - testifying to the success of both parties, I think.

Jilly Goodden, the antiques and wine pundit, was on hand at the Globe Theatre on the South Bank to enlighten the AXA guests on the finer points of Gallic viticulture. Also on hand was the FA Cup. (AXA sponsors the competition) and everyone was allowed to hold the Cup aloft in true schoolboy (or girl) style.

Meanwhile, just across the Thames at Gracechurch Street,

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Mehmet Dalman, chief executive of Commerzbank Global Equities, hosted a tasting of eight fine German beers.

Mr Dalman said he had got over the possible cultural clashes which have plagued other German-owned London merchant banks by the simple expedient of living in Frankfurt.

If anyone in Frankfurt has a complaint about their British colleagues, he says, he can turn around and say: "This is a German bank. What is the problem?" It does mean a weekly commute to London, though.

Mr Dalman's two passions outside work and his family are football and horseracing. He is a Manchester United fan, and when United got through to the European Champions League final against Bayern Munich, he says, "I rang up my old friend

Count the days

THE TYPICAL non-executive chairman of a FTSE 100 company is likely to spend more than 150 days a year on the company's business, compared with around 50 days for a chairman of a company with a turnover of around £100m, according to a survey by Monks Partnership.

The reasons for this become clear when the survey adds that the FTSE 100 chairman is likely to be paid around £160,000, compared with £50,000 for the smaller company chairman.

Good relations

ELIZABETH WADE, one of Martin Taylor's confidantes during his last year as chief executive at Barclays Bank, has moved to M&S, an independent investor relations consultancy.

Ms Wade, originally an analyst with BZW, rose to be head of corporate communications and investor relations at Barclays, until she left last year after Mr Taylor's exit. She has certainly landed on her feet - M&S is now reckoned to be one of the best investor relations advisers in the City.

And one of its most important clients is Barclays.

Going Digital

ONDIGITAL, the terrestrial digital broadcaster owned by Carlton Communications and Granada, has poached Guy Laurence from Planet Hollywood to be its sales and mar-

To the Tower

THE TOWER of London has got a new boss. Alan Coppin is leaving Compass Group, the contract catering business where he is chief executive, to take the same title at Historic Royal Palaces, the charitable body which runs the Tower, Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace State Apartments, the Banqueting House, Whitehall and Kew Palace.

Mr Coppin won't have to wear a uniform, I am told. He's used to this kind of thing, having worked in management at Warwick Castle, Beaulieu and Stratfield Saye House. He also used to be chief executive of a slightly less high falutin' establishment - Wembley Pic.

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
UK	1.0000				
Australia	2.4702	2.4695	2.4686	2.4677	2.4668
Belgium	20.918	20.907	20.896	20.885	20.874
Canada	61.324	61.193	60.915	60.581	60.247
Denmark	2.3838	2.3828	2.3816	2.3804	2.3792
Euro	11.300	11.279	11.258	11.237	11.216
Finland	5.9387	5.9377	5.9366	5.9355	5.9344
France	6.5674	6.5663	6.5652	6.5641	6.5630
Germany	2.3740	2.3730	2.3719	2.3708	2.3697
Greece	486.95	486.17	485.39	484.61	483.83
Hong Kong	12.517	12.513	12.513	12.513	12.513
Ireland	1.1975	1.1950	1.1925	1.1900	1.1875
Italy	193.93	193.72	193.51	193.30	193.09
Japan	152.37	152.16	151.95	151.74	151.53
Malaysia	6.1366	6.1366	6.1366	6.1366	6.1366
Netherlands	14.896	14.896	14.896	14.896	14.896
New Zealand	3.3501	3.3499	3.3497	3.3495	3.3493
Norway	12.599	12.599	12.599	12.599	12.599
Portugal	304.77	304.77	304.77	304.77	304.77
Saudi Arabia	6.0563	6.0563	6.0563	6.0563	6.0563
Singapore	2.7413	2.7406	2.7399	2.7392	2.7385
South Africa	9.7823	9.7823	9.7823	9.7823	9.7823
Spain	162.88	162.88	162.88	162.88	162.88
Sweden	13.336	13.336	13.336	13.336	13.336
Switzerland	2.4432	2.4431	2.4431	2.4431	2.4431
US	1.6149				

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
Argentina	1.6068				
Brazil	2.7348				
China	13.740				
Czech Rep	25.444				
Egypt	5.5574				
India	39.9315				
Hungary	380.10				
Indonesia	199.134				
Israel	1380.43				
Kuwait	0.4946				
Nigeria	142.82				

INTEREST RATES

Country	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year
UK	5.25%								
Denmark	5.00%								
France	5.25%								
Germany	5.25%								
Italy	5.25%								
Japan	5.25%								
Netherlands	5.25%								
Portugal	5.25%								
Spain	5.25%								
Sweden	5.25%								
Switzerland	5.25%								
US	5.25%								

BOND YIELDS

Country	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year
Australia	4.64	4.64	4.64	4.64	4.64	4.64	4.64	4.64	4.64
Belgium	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48
Canada	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61
Denmark	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Euro	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
France	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Germany	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Italy	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Japan	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Netherlands	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Portugal	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Spain	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Sweden	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
Switzerland	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59
US	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59

MONEY MARKET RATES

Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Treasury Bills					
LIBOR					
Dominic Depos					
European Depos					
Foreign Bank Bills					
Swedish Cds					
US Cds					
US Libor					

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract		Settlement	High	Low	Est. Open Interest	Open Interest
Long Gilt	Jun-99	115.99	116.47	115.88	53,292	86,914
5 Yr Gilt	Jun-99	107.32	...	...	...	...
German Bund	Jun-99	115.67	...	...	...	...
Italian Bond	Jun-99	114.49	...	114.49	11,200	37,407
Mexican Govt Bd	Jun-99	135.09	135.09	134.93	1,056	...
3 Mkt Sterling	Jun-99	94.81	94.82	94.79	96,759	183,558
	Sep-99	94.83	94.85	94.82	21,894	200,149
3 Mth Eurobor	Jun-99	97.38	...	...	...	...
	Sep-99	97.40	97.41	97.39	25,177	205,262
	Sep-99	97.40	97.41	97.40	21,856	212,281
3 Mth Euroswiss	Jun-99	98.85	98.86	98.82	10,385	99,528
3 Mth Euroswiss	Apr-99	98.97	98.98	98.97	11,007	65,106
	Sep-99	98.98	98.98	98.93	81,07	...
3 Mth Euro Libor	Jun-99	97.38	...	...	...	...
	Sep-99	97.40	97.40	97.40	11,101	104,555
	Sep-99	97.40	97.40	97.40	10,100	91,789
2006	Jun-99	6635.00	6641.00	6601.00	22,048	196,776

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION											
Contract Price:		6598.80		114.00		114.00		114.00		114.00	
Series	Mag	Int	Put	Mag	Int	Put	Mag	Int	Put	Mag	Int
6500	273	24	58	20	354	120	424	158	696	364	...
6550	237	24	10	20	316	133	384	174	1	-1	...
6600	209	20	19	19	325	154	634	183	403	...	...
6650	171	23	102	19	253	170	326	220	-1	-1	...

SPORT



Moments to remember: Paul Broadbent (left) lifts the Challenge Cup for the Sheffield Eagles last year. Wigan's Brett Kenny (top right) leaves Peter Sterling in his wake as he mounts another Wigan attack in 1985 and (bottom right) Robbie Paul, of the Bradford Bulls, scores his side's second try in the Challenge Cup final against St Helens in 1996

Langer decides to quit at 32

BY DAVE HADFIELD

ALLAN LANGER, the world's dominant scrum-half for the last decade, has shocked the Brisbane Broncos by announcing his retirement in mid-season. Langer, 32, has won 22 caps for Australia, the last of them against New Zealand last Friday when, despite finishing on the winning side, he was outshone by his opposite number, Stacey Jones.

He played for Brisbane two days later, but was substituted midway through the draw with their fellow strugglers, the North Queensland Cowboys, which left the Broncos, last year's National Rugby League champions, just one place off the foot of the table.

Langer cited his loss of form as the reason for his sudden decision, saying that it was the Kiwi Test that convinced him that it was time to go.

"The toughest thing for players who have been lucky enough to have a long career is knowing when to end it," he said.

Despite only standing 5ft 5in, Langer towered above other scrum-halves for most of that career. He was, with only brief exceptions, Australia's regular in that position from the time of making his debut in 1988. He also figured in all Brisbane's triumphs, including their three Australian Premiership titles and the Super League title and World Club Challenge in 1997. The Broncos were his only club, despite his being linked at times with a possible move to Wigan or to the other Broncos in London.

Andy Gregory, now coach of Salford, and Langer's direct opponent in Ashes Tests, paid tribute. "He was one of the best I ever played against," he said. "Of all them, I would rate him alongside Peter Sterling as the best Australia has produced. He's not just an opponent but a mate as well. I know he's a proud chap who wants to be remembered as an all-time great, but I still think he has a lot to offer rugby league."

One of the Australian candidates linked with the coaching post at Leeds next term, Phil Eason, has been appointed national coach of Fiji. Eason, previously coach at Gold Coast, takes on a part-time role once filled by Leeds' incumbent, Graham Murray.

Manly have fined their winger, John Hopcraft, £1,000 (£1,600) and suspended him for eight weeks after he reportedly turned up drunk at training.

Meanwhile, the Huddersfield coach, Malcolm Reilly, has denied reports from Australia that his scrum-half and captain, Bobbie Goulding, has been made available to clubs there.

Another international scrum-half, Salford's Martin Crompton, will miss the game against one of his former clubs, Wigan, next Monday after being suspended for one match as a result of being placed on report.

The Halifax winger, Nick Pinkney, has also been banned for one game for an on-report offence, but the Barrow second-row forward, Stuart Rhodes, faces eight games on the sidelines after being found guilty of use of the elbow to a Rochdale opponent's head.

Finals that thrill the memory

JUST AS you have to start young to be a concert violinist, it is no use hanging about aimlessly in your youth if you want to become one of those old men who can boast about how many Wembleys they have seen.

I will never break any records, because I was 19 before the prospect of watching Leigh, the nearest thing to my local club, play there lured me for the first time.

My contemporaries had already been going there for years, blazing a trail. They had seen Wigan beat Hunslet in the classic of 1965, Don Fox's missed conversion that cost Wakefield the Cup in 1968, and Keith Hepworth's elbow take out Colin Tyrer in 1970.

But Leigh's Wembley was not a bad place to start. Less fancied against a thoroughbred Leeds in 1971, than London are on Saturday, less fancied than Sheffield were against Wigan last year, they won in a canter. Alex Murphy got Syd Hynes sent off, the Cup went to the town for the first time since 1921 and Leigh's winger Joe Walsh was arrested at the homecoming for climbing up a

Saturday's Rugby League Challenge Cup final will be the last at the 'old' Wembley. Dave Hadfield remembers the best moments of the annual pilgrimage to London

lamp-post and refusing to come down.

Old-timers told us that they could be relied on to win the Cup every 50 years, regular as clockwork. And, if you study the form carefully, you can see that they are already starting their charge for 2021.

There were 56 of us Leythys, and fellow-travellers, in half a student house in East Finchley that night. I woke up in the greenhouse and counted myself one of the very lucky ones. Surely it couldn't be like this every year.

It hasn't been. The house in East Finchley has long gone, to be succeeded by homes from home in Whitechapel, Camden Town and Highams Park, until middle age and upward mobility has brought my mate and his thriving seasonal trade in itinerant northerners to the relative luxury of Tower Hill. Nor is overcrowding a problem any more. In a bad year there can be as few as a dozen of us. Everyone gets, if not a bed, then

at least their own bit of floor. Paradise, as our role models on Monty Python used to say.

This year, another overcrowded venue with antiquated facilities joins East Finchley on the condemned list. Wembley itself will be no more, at least not as generations of rugby league supporters have known it. There will be a stadium on roughly the same site, of course, but it will have usable toilets and, presumably, a de-

cent view from most seats. It will be unrecognisable.

So this is the end of an era, but we have adapted to change before. Until the early Eighties, Wembley weekend also involved a game of our own on the Sunday morning, pitting what was left of our old team against whatever naïve, pimply faced London opposition could be enlisted.

These matches followed a pattern. Nous and guile in-

variably gave us a healthy half-time advantage, before the years and the beers joined forces to leave us hanging on desperately to our lead, our dignity and our breakfasts in the second half. One year, we looked silently and exhausted at each other, after sneaking home by virtue of a dubious late penalty, and we knew that part of it was over.

The tribal element of the weekend remains, though. We'll

gather on Friday from all corners of the globe - well, most corners of Leigh, at any rate - and know that for those few days several corners of London belong to us. It could be the corner under the stairs - known in perpetuity as Kiddo's Corner, because it used to be occupied by one of our number's younger brother, now a 40-something PE teacher; it could, if you're very unfortunate, be the corner that leads to the bathroom.

And, being northerners, when we reminisce about our lives and times involving this strange place in north London that is about to disappear, we will grumble happily about our privations and sufferings. But we will also reflect on some of the greatest rugby league ever played, none of it on a Sunday morning.

Counting down to 2021 we might be, but we've seen a few sideshows to keep us going. St Helens' Dad's Army battling through the 100 degree heat in 1976; Brett Kenny and Peter

Sterling in matching flawless perfection in 1985; Robbie Paul dazzling in defeat in 1996.

Then there are the hardy annuals: the price of the beer and the gullibility of Londoners. More than a decade ago, one lad from Wigan was so spell-bound by one bill from the weekend that he took it home and framed it. It read: "Four Pies: £16."

Last year, I took my son to his first Wembley - my daughter wants to go this year, but only because five are on - because, for reasons too obscure to explain, he supports Sheffield Eagles.

He sat with his flag and my mate from Leigh not many yards from the spot where I stood for my first final. He emerged glowing, if a little relieved, after hearing my war sagas, not to be sleeping 56 to a greenhouse in East Finchley.

No, we gave him Kiddo's Corner and he slept like someone going to their first Wembley and seeing their no-hope, no-account side win magnificently should sleep. It won't always be like this, I warned him. And after this year, it never will be again.

CHALLENGE CUP'S WEMBLEY MILESTONES

1929
Challenge Cup final goes to Wembley for first time. Wigan beat Dewsbury.

1934
Widnes, who lose to Hunslet, remain only club to field 13 local players.

1946
Billy Scott of Wakefield Trinity becomes first winner of Lance Todd Trophy.

1949
First capacity crowd (95,050) as Bradford beat Halifax.

1952
There is live national coverage on BBC television for the first time, as Workington beat Featherstone.

1954
The first drawn final - and 102,569 turn out to watch the replay between Warrington and Halifax which takes place at Odsal.

1965
The biggest-ever Wembley crowd (the total attendance is 98,535) see Wigan overwhelm Hunslet in an absolute classic.

1971
Syd Hynes becomes the first man sent off at Wembley as Leigh upset Leeds.

1975
The start of a Wembley institution - the schoolboy curtain-raiser.

1988
Wigan start eight-year winning streak. Shaun Edwards plays in every tie.

1996
Robbie Paul is first to score a hat-trick of tries, but Bradford lose to St Helens.

Lofthouse's humanity humbles today's heroes

CHANCES ARE that readers merely glanced at the headline revealing a 35 per cent increase in Premiership salaries to an annual average of £250,000, asked what was so unusual about that and turned to other sporting matters.

That conclusion is endorsed by Gerry Boon of the Deloitte & Touche Football Finance Review whose recently conducted survey revealed the above figure. "Supporters are used to seeing a 20-per-cent-plus annual growth in wages since the Premiership began," he said.

This is an improving thought to all of us who fret about escalating admission charges, whether the game can avoid the perils implicit in failure to establish a sensible economy and



KEN JONES

whether the interest of an upcoming generation can be held in an atmosphere of galloping inflation. According to Boon wages have risen in 10 years from 37 per cent to 50 per cent of clubs' revenue.

Apart from supporting the fact that any number of Pre-

iership clubs would go to the wall without money from television, Boon's figures emphasise the extent to which professional football in this country has moved away from the romance that sustained it for more than three-quarters of a century.

At a dinner in London last week I was privileged to present an award honouring the playing career of Nat Lofthouse, the former Bolton Wanderers and England centre-forward.

In 503 games for Bolton, his only club, Lofthouse scored 250 goals, another 30 in 33 appearances for England.

Voted Footballer of the Year in 1953, his playing days came to an end in 1961, a year before the maximum wage, then at £20 per week, was abolished.

Looking back, Lofthouse would not change anything. "We were criminally underpaid," he said, "and I don't begrudge what players get today, but we had something they will never experience."

"Whenever I turned out at Burnden Park I knew that some of the people watching had never travelled more than a few miles from Bolton. I imagined them working hard for half of what I was getting. I'd worked underground and I played football. I knew which was easiest. I was from folk who made up a large part of the crowd."

In the most profound and elegantly crafted book about football, *The Football Man*, published in 1988, Arthur Hopcraft wrote of how Loft-

house felt one summer in the long ago when setting off with Bolton on a close season tour of South Africa. "We were going away for nine weeks," Lofthouse told Hopcraft. "I'd left my house at half past seven to be picked up by the bus at the bottom of the road. There's a works down there and the men were all rolling in. Half past seven that was, and I was there with my cases going to South Africa, all paid with £2 a day spending money."

Hopcraft caught the gratitude and surprise of the working man that worldly comfort could be his without the drudgery of manual labour. He saw it as a key factor in the people's nurturing of football. "Lofthouse," he wrote, "conveyed a sense

of victory, not just pleasure." I sometimes go back to those words because none more vividly impress the difference between English football as it was in Lofthouse's time and as it is today.

Teams applaud supporters in a common ritual at the end of matches, but applause has inevitably distanced the connection. "Time was, and not because of any personal contact, when I could relate to those who were out there playing for us," someone said the other day. "But they're growing further and further away. Understandable I suppose when the money they get quickly turns them into millionaires. The sense of community is gone. I'm not knocking the foreign players -

many of them provide terrific entertainment. It's just that something has gone forever."

The true tone of football, indeed of most games, in the 1990s is set by the elite corps, the most successful of the professionals, that is to say the richest of the game's people: the stars who have played their way up to prodigious salaries, are admirably interviewed by sycophants and receive the same adoring space in print and across the airwaves as rock stars about their lavish pads, fancy motor cars and glamorous relationships.

As for the common touch, Lofthouse so warmly exemplifies, it is a shocking notion to put to any player. What do they think he was in this for - sport?

TOMORROW



"He is also memorialised, with a so far undiminished clarity, every time someone looks wistfully at the present generation of grand prize cars and drivers, at the cars he might have driven and the drivers who might have challenged him, and wonders, 'What if...'"

Richard Williams remembers Ayton Scenna

Lively Lewis saves day for champions

THE BALL moved around all day here, which is hardly a surprise at this stage of the season. Even so, to opt to bowl first under cloudless skies when without two front-line seamers still constitutes something of a risk, so Lancashire had cause for quiet satisfaction at their efforts yesterday.

Additionally, Lancashire had only six out of eight scheduled days' county cricket, which sometimes showed when length and line eluded them, but they were helped by some Leicestershire batting that also owed much to what might be kindly called early-season rustiness.

It did not help the champions' cause that two batsmen who were in form, Vince Wells and Darren Maddy, got themselves out when well set. But Chris Lewis, with an unbeaten 77 from 133 balls, helped Matthew Brimston in an unbroken last-wicket partnership of 72, which led Leicestershire to a total that their own bowlers will probably make look very formidable.

Ian Austin returned to Old Trafford for treatment for a thigh injury but insisted he would be fit for the World Cup and as John Crawley was also without the services of the injured Peter Martin, his decision to field first may have looked a shade defensive. But you could hardly blame him if it was.

BY MIKE CAREY
at Leicester
Leicestershire 337-9
v Lancashire

His side had hardly had a bat in their hands in the four-day game and this ground was under water earlier this month. There had to be some under-surface moisture, yet Steve Wright, the groundsman, somehow produced a pitch on which the ball not only came firmly on to the bat, but also went through at a healthy pace, especially at the Bennett End.

Viewed from Grace Road's handsome new media centre at that end, which was built during the close season at a cost of some £300,000, it was always a combative contest in which Lancashire's weakened attack stuck to their task well, despite occasional erratic spells.

No one ran in with more heart than Richard Green who, coming on first change, swung the ball later than most and sometimes disconcerted even Wells and Maddy with his ability to generate extra bounce around off stump. Wells, who had dealt savagely with anything short of a length, became his first victim when his footwork, for once, betrayed him. But for the left-handed Ian Sutcliffe, Green produced a perfect inswinging

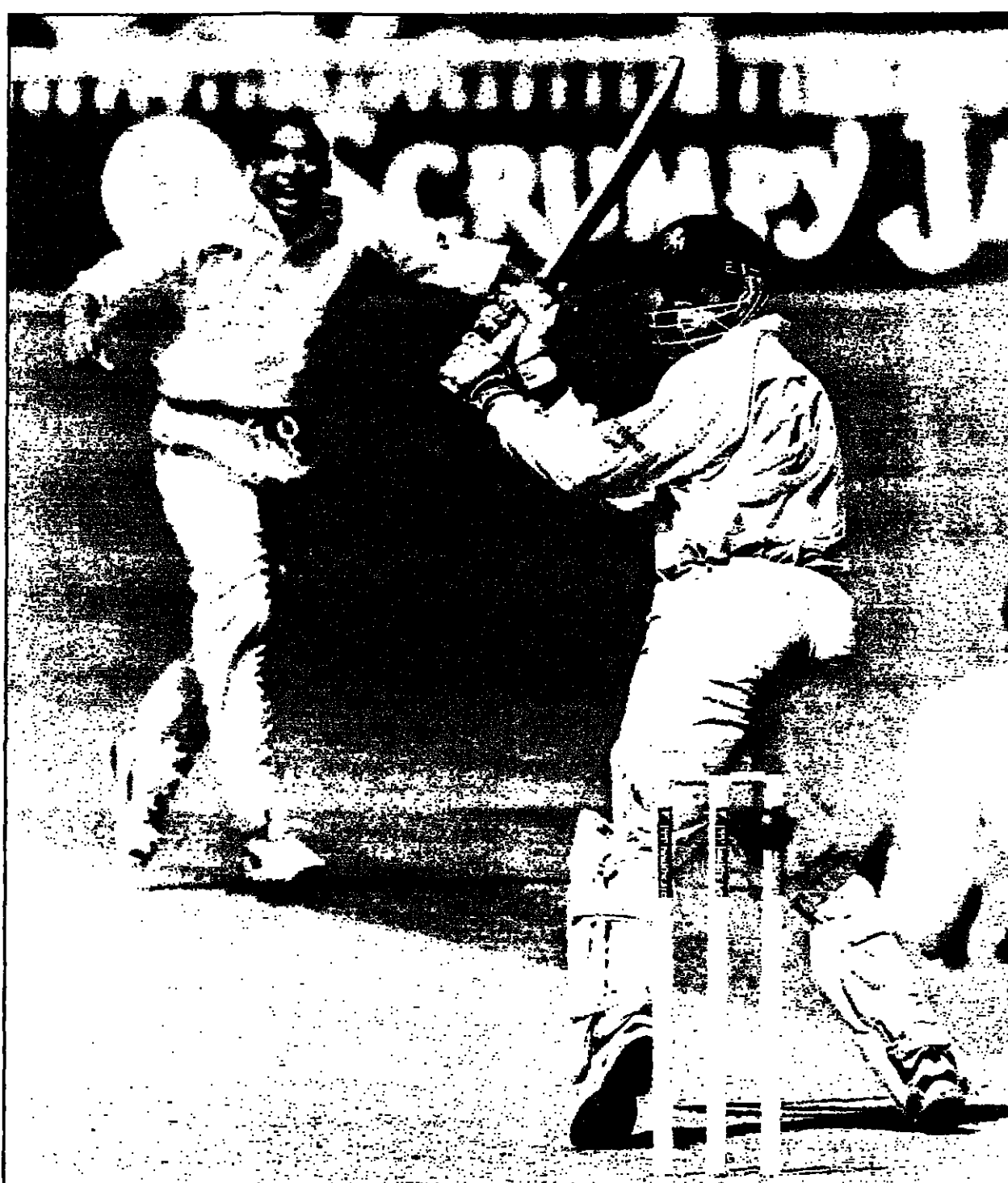
Yorker that the batsmen could only edge into his stumps.

From 111 for 2, though, Leicestershire must have felt they were going on to greater things. But Michael Smethurst, making his second Championship appearance, quickly learned one of the game's oldest adages (that there is no such thing as a bad ball if it takes a wicket) when Ben Smith carved his post-lunch loosener to slip.

James Whitaker, who has always looked an uncertain starter, edged a Glen Chapple outswinger to the wicketkeeper and departed without waiting for the umpire's verdict. Two cover drives from Afab Habib were as good as any strokes seen all day, but Green got him caught at slip as he tried to withdraw his bat from one that bounced.

Throughout all this, Maddy had batted with the circumspect approach of one who intends to make a stack of runs this summer. He is one of those rare batsmen who is a pleasure to watch even when operating defensively. Quietly, he simply waited for errors in length and line and picked them off.

Green removed him, in the end, with a superb ankle-high return catch when Maddy, thinking he was not quite there for the drive, half-checked his stroke. It was his first serious error in three and a half hours.



Kent's Andrew Symonds is caught behind by Karl Krikken off Phillip De Freitas yesterday David Ashdown

Johnson benefits from new regime

By JON CULLEY
at Trent Bridge

Nottinghamshire 377-6
v Worcestershire

PAUL JOHNSON did two things when he heard Clive Rice was coming back to Nottinghamshire. First he signed a new contract - then he headed for the gym. As a member of the Nottinghamshire team that won the Championship in 1987 - the second of two titles achieved with Rice as captain - Johnson can vouch for his effectiveness as a leader. He can also confirm Rice's reputation for possessing a bite equal to his bark is accurate.

Hence Johnson's decision to become acquainted with Trent Bridge's new fitness suite. By his own admission, he has not for some years been noted for a lithe, athletic figure. And, knowing what he knows, it was better to shed a few pounds in advance, he reasoned, than wait for Rice to prescribe his own remedy.

As Johnson emerged from the pavilion yesterday, it appeared his pre-emptive action had been a success. Happily, his ability as a batsman remains undiminished. Having stepped into the welcoming sunshine with Nottinghamshire 75 for 2, he returned to the dressing rooms at 311 for 5, to which his own contribution was a typical Johnson innings of 21 boundaries that brought him the 37th first-class century of his career.

It was an innings that exposed the inadequacies that threaten to make this a poor season for Worcestershire, already without Tom Moody and soon to be without Graeme Hick too because of the World Cup, and labouring with modest bowling resources weakened further by the absence of the injured Phil Newport.

The pitch, left with plenty of grass on it, offered movement and bounce enough, with the ball swinging too, to justify an insertion. But after the new-comer Chris Liptrot had seen off Tim Robinson in the second over - well taken, one-handed by Stuart Lampitt at third slip - Worcestershire failed to make the most of it. Alamgir Sheriary was quick and not always lucky, but allowed too many chances, of which Johnson seized most.

Jason Gallian, who succeeded Johnson as captain last season, did much of the groundwork for his colleague, taking the lead role in a 71-run partnership with Usman Afzaal for the second wicket and, having ended a lean run with his first half-century in 13 Championship innings since he became captain, was annoyed when himself for failing on 82, dismissed a little tamely when Lampitt hurried one through.

But Johnson still prospered, finding a useful ally in Noel Gie, with whom he added 109 for the fourth wicket in 23 entertaining overs, in the process falling only two runs short of a century between lunch and tea. Gie became a second low victim for Lampitt and Johnson eventually prodded Richard Illingworth to slip, but Chris Reid, the England A wicketkeeper, and Vashbert Drakes provided another surge of strokes as Nottinghamshire collected maximum batting points.

Lillee says ICC must take action

DENNIS LILLEE has attacked the International Cricket Council over its failure to act on crowd violence in the West Indies. "The ICC can count itself lucky it doesn't have blood on its hands," the former Australian fast bowler said following violence during the Australian tour of the West Indies.

Play in the final one-day match at Bridgetown was interrupted when spectators threw bottles at Australian players. In Georgetown four days earlier spectators invaded the pitch preventing the game being completed.

Lillee asked of the ICC: "Is it waiting for someone to be killed? The West Indies board has a budget stretched to the limit, but the ICC, with its coffers bursting at the seams, has a vested interest in West Indies cricket. Despite the scenes last weekend, cricket lovers want West Indies cricket to survive. The ICC must get more involved to ensure that happens."

Derbyshire squander their early advantage

THERE WERE times when this resembled a one-day skirmish rather than a four-day battle. Matthew Walker apart, Kent's batsmen all chose to have a bad day at the office. And when Derbyshire's openers Michael Slater and Adrian Rollins hammered their way to a century partnership, the new Kent captain, Matthew Fleming, must have been at his wit's end.

To be lacking in one department (batting) may be deemed unfortunate; to be found wanting in the other (bowling) borders on carelessness. Not until Slater had taken Derbyshire to within 10 runs of the pitiful Kent total did Fleming have anything to smile about.

That was when the overseas signing Andrew Symonds sent down a slower ball that deceived his compatriot Slater

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN
at Canterbury
Kent 141
Derbyshire 172-6

and furnished Fleming with a simple catch at mid-off. The relief was palpable. Slater had punched and pulled his way to a good-looking 50, with a couple of exquisite sixes and eight fours. His timing and placing were examples of precision as he punished anything that was remotely wide or short - and there was plenty of that early on. He had presented one chance when the airborne Martin McCague failed to hang on to an uppish extra-cover drive. As it turned out it did not

matter much since the Australian managed to add just two more before perishing.

That left the stage to the in-form Rollins, who, having happily played second fiddle while Slater burned, then proceeded to pass 70 for his second successive Championship innings. His was a good-looking effort as well. He gratefully accepted the short, wide deliveries that allowed him to exploit the off-side almost unchallenged. But Slater's departure marked a change in Kent fortunes, or a dip

in Derbyshire luck, depending on your perspective. Philip Weston saw a third run to Min Patel on the sweeper boundary. Rollins did not. Weston departed and was comprehensively run out.

When the confident Rollins overdid it driving at Dean Headley and was swallowed up at first slip the slide was on. Stephen Titchard, Matthew Cassar and Phillip De Freitas all went quickly and suddenly things looked brighter for Kent. By the time bad light drove them all off with only a few overs

remaining they had recovered much. Even so, they will reflect angrily that they threw away so much with the bat.

Walker's welcome half-century was their only saving grace. He is an interesting parallel to Slater. The Australian made his first-class debut in 1991, just a year before the Kent man. Since then Slater has hammered 27 first-class hundreds and more than 50 half-centuries, while Walker, long on promise but short on fulfilment, has racked up just two

hundreds and now eight fifties. Still, there was no denying the value of yesterday's effort as the diminutive batsman overcame some fine swing and seam bowling to battle his way to an uncharacteristically restrained 53. Left-arm Kevin Dean got the ball to swing and he and De Freitas underscored the wisdom of Dominic Cork's decision to exploit the conditions. That final session, though, appeared to undo all the good early work leaving the match more evenly balanced.

Late rally takes the edge off Jones' day

SIMON JONES completed a career-best haul on the opening day of Glamorgan's County Championship match against Sussex in Cardiff and it took a ninth-wicket stand of 71 between Shaun Humphries and Umar Rashid to restore some pride to the visitors.

Humphries, who was his side's top scorer with 57, and Rashid, with 43, were dismissed within the space of three balls by Jones but by then they had boosted their side from a precarious 147 for 8 towards a final total of 222.

Glamorgan then made a hesitant start to their reply to finish the day on 39 for 2 with Steve James and Adrian Dale the men out.

Jones, playing only his fourth Championship match, finished with 5 for 31 to improve on his previous best of 3 for 94 against Yorkshire, also at Sophia Gardens, last summer. Rashid and Humphries came together with Sussex wobbling in mid-afternoon and took advantage of some uninspired bowling and a couple of missed chances to revive the Sussex innings.

Humphries, in particular, rode his luck well. He was dropped by Dean Cocker off a very sharp change to backward point off Darren Thomas when on 41 and he had added only three more runs before Alun Evans put down a straightforward catch at square leg off Dale. Humphries celebrated his good fortune by reaching a patient 140-half-century with a square-cut off Steve Watkins for his third boundary.

He was finally out when he top-edged a hook off Jones and was caught at long leg. Rashid then followed two balls later when he was bowled around his legs.

PPP healthcare County Championship

Durham v Hampshire

RIVERSIDE (Day 1 of 4): Hampshire (3 pts) have scored 344 for 8 wickets against Durham (3 pts) Hampshire won toss

HAMPSHIRE — First Innings

		Runs	6s	4s	Bts	Min
G W White	c Lewis b Harrison	25	0	3	50	51
J P Stephenson	c Lewis b Brown	7	0	1	18	24
W S Rendall	c Speight b Wood	105	0	15	171	218
*R A Smith	c Betts b Wood	10	0	2	20	26
IA N Aymes	c & b Wood	51	0	5	127	161
D A Kenway	not out	56	0	6	135	166
A D Mascarenhas	b Collingwood	44	0	7	92	102
S D Udall	run out	1	0	0	13	20
A C Morris	c Collingwood b Brown	2	0	0	13	16
N A M McLean	not out	3	0	1	3	1

Extras (b2 lb13 nb2).....39

Total (for 8, 105 overs).....344

Fall: 1-21, 2-39, 3-70, 4-212, 5-239, 6-322, 7-335, 8-340.

To bat: S J Renshaw.

Bowling: S J E Brown 24-6-64-2, M M Betts 21-6-54-0, S J Harrison 18-2-83-1, J Wood 23-4-76-3, M A Gough 7-2-23-0, P D Collingwood 12-2-29-1.

Umpires: N A Mallender and K E Palmer.

Essex v Warwickshire

CHELMSFORD (Day 1 of 4): Essex (4 pts) are trailing Warwickshire (2 pts) by 256 runs with 9 first-innings wickets in hand

Essex won toss

WARWICKSHIRE — First Innings

N V Knight c Law b Cowan	2	0	0	10	9
M A Wagb flw b Iltott	3	0	0	9	15
D L Kemp lbtw b Grove	30	0	5	50	55
T L Penney c Hussain b Iltott	19	0	1	68	94
IT Frost c Hyam b Iltott	11	0	1	40	51
D R Brown c Grayson b Iltott	8	0	1	21	21
*N M K Smith b Iltott	69	0	12	104	135
A F Giles c Law b Cowan	30	0	6	65	71
G Welch not out	48	0	4	118	150
T A Munton c Such b Grayson	24	0	2	69	87
E S H Giddins b Grayson	6	0	1	11	8

Extras (b6 lb11 nb4).....271

Total (93.5 overs).....271

Fall: 1-2, 2-6, 3-47, 4-71, 5-76, 6-84, 7-171, 8-202, 9-261.

To bat: A P Cowan 18-4-60-2, M C Iltott 21-8-43-3, J O Grove 13-3-59-1, R C Iltott 17-2-40-2, P M Smith 17-2-37-0, A P Grayson 7-5-15-2.

Bowling: A P Cowan 18-4-60-2, M C Iltott 21-8-43-3, J O Grove 13-3-59-1, R C Iltott 17-2-40-2, P M Smith 17-2-37-0, A P Grayson 7-5-15-2.

Umpires: J C Balderstone and D R Shepherd

Glamorgan v Sussex

CARDIFF (Day 1 of 4): Glamorgan (4 pts) are trailing Sussex (1 pt) by 183 runs with 8 first-innings wickets in hand

Sussex won toss

SUSSEX — First Innings

SUSSEX — First Innings					
	Runs	6s	4s	Bts	Min
R R Montgomerie c Dale b Jones	28	0	3	47	57
M T E Peirce lbw b Dale	13	0	1	41	60
*C J Adams c Maynard b Thomas	41	2	5	51	69
M J Di Venuto c Croft b Jones	12	0	2	17	22
P A Cottee c Evans b Croft	6	0	0	17	30
R K Rao c Maynard b Thomas	8	0	0	45	47
R Martin-Jenkins lbw b Thomas	0	0	0	2	0
IS Humphries c Thomas b Jones	57	0	4	162	194
R J Kirtley c Shaw b Jones	4	0	0	58	64
U B A Rashid b Jones	43	1	6	93	96
M A Robinson not out	0	0	0	0	0

Extras (b3 lb3 nb4).....10

Total (89.3 overs).....222

Fall: 1-42, 2-44, 3-61, 4-96, 5-104, 6-104, 7-119, 8-147, 9-218.

To bat: S L Watkin 18-5-43-0, S D Thomas 18-4-56-3, A Dale 10-3-40-1, S P Jones 13-3-31-5, R D B Croft 19-7-35-1, D A Coker 10-1-13-0.

Bowling: S L Watkin 18-5-43-0, S D Thomas 18-4-56-3, A Dale 10-3-40-1, S P Jones 13-3-31-5, R D B Croft 19-7-35-1, D A Coker 10-1-13-0.

Umpires: N A Mallender and K E Palmer.

Gloucestershire v Middlesex

BRISTOL (Day 1 of 4): Gloucestershire (1 pt) have scored 246 for 7 wickets against Middlesex (3 pts)

Middlesex won toss

GLoucestershire — First Innings

Fall: 1-14, 2-38.
To bat: *M P Maynard, K Newell, R D B Croft, I A Shaw, S D Thomas, S L Watkin, S P Jones.
Bowling: R J Kirtley 5-0-19-1, R S C Martin-Jenkins 4-0-13-0, U B A Rashid 2-1-4-0, M A Robinson 2-1-2-1.
Umpires: J H Hampshire and J H Harris.

Gloucestershire v Middlesex

Extras (b1 lb7 nb4).....12

Total (for 7, 110 overs).....246

Fall: 1-4, 2-56, 3-91, 4-120, 5-131, 6-181, 7-230, 8-255, 9-265.

To bat: M M Averis, A M Smith

Bowling: A R C Fraser 27-13-36-2, S J Cook 13-2-51-1, J P Hewitt 17-2-56-1, P C R Tufnell 36-8-65-2, P N Weekes 10-4-16-0, O A Shah 7-2-14-1.

Umpires: D J Constant and M J Harris.

Kent v Derbyshire

CANTERBURY (Day 1 of 4): Derbyshire (4 pts) are leading Kent (2 pts) by 31 runs with 4 first-innings wickets in hand

Derbyshire won toss

KENT — First Innings

Runs		6s	4s	Bts	Min
D P Fulton lbw b Dean	4	0	1	7	
R W T Key lbw b Dean	11	0	1	27	9
A P Wells lbw b Dean	11	0	2	33	14
M J Walker c Cork b Smith	53	0	10	101	161
A Symonds c Krikken b DeFreitas	8	0	1	21	28
M A Eatham c Krikken b DeFreitas	2	0	0	14	14
*M V Fleming c Cassar b DeFreitas	4	0	1	3	3
YS A Marsh b Dean	7	0	1	13	11
D W Headley c Cassar b Cork	10	0	0	38	35
M M Patel lbw b Cork	6	0	1	16	15
M J McCague not out	11	0	2	23	30

Extras (b10 nb4).....14

Total (49 overs).....141

Fall: 1-5, 2-20, 3-27, 4-43, 5-55, 6-59, 7-70, 8-94, 9-112.

To bat: P A J De Freitas 17-3-48-3, K J Dean 17-5-34-4, D G Cork 11-1-34-2, T M Smith 4-1-15-1.

Bowling: P A J De Freitas 17-3-48-3, K J Dean 17-5-34-4, D G Cork 11-1-34-2, T M Smith 4-1-15-1.

Umpires: N A Mallender and K E Palmer.

Leicestershire v Lancashire

LEICESTER (Day 1 of 4): Leicestershire (3 pts) have scored 337 for 9 wickets against Lancashire (4 pts)

Lancashire won toss

LEICESTERSHIRE — First Innings

Fall: 1-131, 2-137, 3-153, 4-155, 5-157, 6-159.
To bat: P Aldred, T M Smith, K J Dean.
Bowling: M J McCague 2.4-0-12-0, D W Headley 1.4-1-63-2, M A Eatham 12-3-33-2, M M Patel 4-1-16-0, M V Fleming 9-3-19-0, A Symonds 7-0-26-1.
Umpires: J W Holder and R Palmer.

Leicestershire v Lancashire

LEICESTER (Day 1 of 4): Leicestershire (3 posts) have scored 337 for 9 wickets against Lancashire.

Extras (b9 lb10 w6 nb4).....25

Total (for 9, 104 overs).....337

Fall: 1-74, 2-82, 3-115, 4-146, 5-174, 6-195, 7-243, 8-255, 9-265.

To bat: G Chapple 26-8-72-4, M P Smethurst 16-3-46-1, A Flintoff 13-2-48-0, R J Green 26-7-57-4, C P Schofield 13-2-53-0, M Watkinson 8-1-33-0, M J Chilston 2-1-9-0.

Bowling: G Chapple 26-8-72-4, M P Smethurst 16-3-46-1, A Flintoff 13-2-48-0, R J Green 26-7-57-4, C P Schofield 13-2-53-0, M Watkinson 8-1-33-0, M J Chilston 2-1-9-0.

Umpires: K J Lyons and A Clarkson.</

Henman faces up to clay

TIM HENMAN has already conceded defeat in his French Open campaign. Clay is not Henman's strongest suit and he has never reached the quarter-finals of any tournament on the surface.

Speaking at the launch of the Lawn Tennis Association's "Play Tennis" youth initiative, the British No 1 admitted that next month's tournament will not earn him a first Grand Slam victory.

"I think that realistically I'm not going to win the French Open," he said yesterday. "Winning the doubles at Monte Carlo was a bit of a surprise. But improving my world ranking in doubles doesn't really matter," he added.

But Henman believes that his Monte Carlo doubles success is the perfect platform for a prolonged run on clay courts. Roland Garros has always been

TENNIS

By DERRICK WHYTE

Henman's nemesis as he seeks a first-ever third-round place. "The Monte Carlo win was all good work - there's no better way of practising than in a match situation," he explained. "It has helped my all-round game develop and I feel that in the last two weeks my clay court game has improved enormously. I've come on better in a fortnight this year than the six or seven weeks I put in last season."

Henman sees his recent performances as a watershed for this season, setting him up for a better run in the clay season of the Grand Slam season.

"Until recently I've not really been playing as well as last year," he added.

Goran Ivanisevic, the seed-



Goran Ivanisevic hits a backhand during his defeat by Markus Hantsch in the Czech Open yesterday. Reuters

and-seeded Croatian, lost to the little-known German Markus Hantsch at the Czech Open yesterday, raising questions about his morale.

Ivanisevic led 7-5 when the match was suspended late on

Tuesday because of darkness. When it resumed, Hantsch won the next two sets 6-2, 6-4 in 61 minutes, with Ivanisevic apparently intentionally missing a few returns and drawing jeers from the fans.

The Croat also faces a fine for refusing to attend a news conference after the match. Ivanisevic's defeat leaves only four seeded players in the tournament. The top seed, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, and the fourth

seed, Marat Safin, both of Russia, were removed in the first round. The fifth seed, Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic, withdrew from the tournament because of a fever. Results, Digest, page 27

Healthy start for Barras

By ROBIN NICHOLL

SID BARRAS stepped in as manager of the British team Men's Health on the understanding that he was free to take firm control. That was three weeks ago, and as his men approach their biggest date so far, the five-day Transvaal Tour of Lanesborough, Barras has yet to get tough because performances so far have been healthy.

Barras said: "In the past I had all the responsibility and none of the power. If you manage teams you have to be able to take control." He was at first wary when he was asked on two separate occasions if he was interested in managing Team Men's Health. Then after meeting Jane Williams, the power behind the team, Barras was convinced.

Riders respect experience, and success. Barras has had it all. Of his 400 victories, 200 came in his professional years which ended 11 years ago. "I was the top British pro for 10 years," he said of the days when he also led the Tour of Switzerland, and won a stage in the Tour of Majorca ahead of names who graced the Tour de France.

Barras has a handful of aces to play in the 482km (301-mile) Tour which opens on Morecambe promenade tomorrow.

CYCLING

but a fatherly eye will be cast occasionally towards his son, Tom, who is racing for Middlebury. Barras's charges include the New Zealander, Gordon McCauley who tops the Premier Calendar points series for which the Tour is a counter. His team-mate Gethin Butler has also signalled winning form in the Tour of Guadeloupe and last weekend's East Riding race.

A back problem put the former world track champion Colin Shurgess out of their line-up, but his replacement Huw Pritchard showed he was ready by winning a stage in the East Riding race.

Barras will have an old racing opponent, Keith Lambert, among his rival tacticians on the Tour. But Lambert's only serious contender is Jon Clay. Clay has switched from a French stage race to join the line-up of 123, but he lacks team support. Most of his Linda McCartney team-mates are racing abroad in preparation for Britain's premier race, the Pru-tour, in three weeks' time, so a bigger threat to Barras should come from the Harrods squad headed by Matt Stephens.

PUNCHESTOWN

2.40 QUINNS OF BALTINGLASS CHASE (LA TOUCHE CUP) £15,000 added 4m 11 Penalty Value £9,713

1. 6102 LINDEN LOTO (2) (M) J. Martin 10 12. Mr A J Martin
2. 1104 RISK OF THUNDER (2) (M) J. Martin 10 12. Mr A J Martin
3. 4721 ANTONIO (2) (M) J. Martin 10 12. Mr A J Martin
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BETTING: 6-4 Risk of Thunder, 5-2 Linden Loto, 13-2 Digress, 8-1 Antonio, 10-1 Shannon Foulard, 12-1 Son of War, 14-1 Harvest Storm, 16-1 others

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McGrain says Rangers may be ready to crack

DANNY McGRAIN believes Rangers' nerve could crack in the championship race if Celtic emerge as Old Firm winners at Parkhead on Sunday. The former Celtic and Scotland player is now part of the coaching staff at the reigning champions and believes Dick Advocaat's men can be caught.

Should Rangers triumph at the weekend it would seal the title at the home of their rivals and reigning champions. But McGrain refuses to entertain such a prospect and instead

BY SIMON BUCKLAND

views the contest as a chance to reduce Rangers' advantage at the top to four points. Should that happen, the former defender believes Rangers might buckle amid the pressure of the three remaining games.

Celtic started the season in turmoil, but in recent months have emerged the form team of the division as their strong run has coincided with jitters across the city at Ibrox. That was until Celtic's 1-0 loss at St

Johnstone at the weekend which enabled Rangers to resume control with a 3-1 home success against Aberdeen.

McGrain said: "We all want to win the championship again, but more than that, the supporters, the players, nobody wants to lose it to Rangers at Celtic Park. If we can win then Rangers might hopefully bottle it because if we manage a victory on Sunday it will be a test for them after that in their three remaining fixtures."

"Rangers would have to get

themselves together again quickly and should be aware we still have the championship at Celtic Park and want to keep it. We know Rangers want to take the trophy from us, but we will hold on to it as hard as we can - to my mind everything is still possible for us."

He added: "It is one of those games when the result is far more significant than the performance, playing well and losing would be no consolation." McGrain himself played out a genuine Old Firm title decider

on 21 May, 1979 when a 4-2 victory clinched the league for Celtic. He recalled: "A television technicians' strike means few pictures of that game survive, but I still recall it in my mind and remember thinking we'd lost it when Johnny Doyle was red-carded. But we recovered and I remember Murdo MacLeod's clinching strike to this day, we played superbly that night."

Andrei Kanchelskis, meanwhile, has dismissed the pride and passion of Sunday's game

as second rate compared to the big grudge match in Italy's Serie A - Fiorentina v Juventus. The Russian international has rejected the widely held belief that a Rangers-Celtic confrontation is the fiercest of all club battles. Instead, Kanchelskis, who grabbed the vital second goal in Rangers' 3-1 victory over Aberdeen at Ibrox on Sunday, insists nothing can compare to the hatred when Juve play at Florence.

The two Italian clubs have a history of bad blood and the dis-

like became even more intense at the start of the 1990s, when Juve captured Fiorentina's Roberto Baggio.

The player went from hero to hated as the Fiorentina fans rebelled - and, according to Kanchelskis, who signed for Rangers from Fiorentina last summer, relations have not improved. "Fiorentina and Juventus is similar to the Old Firm but the rivalry is much nastier and there is always trouble," said Kanchelskis. "The last time I played in that game

it was the worst I have ever seen. The game was in Florence and the Fiorentina fans trashed the Juventus bus."

"When the Juventus bus goes to the stadium they come through a tunnel and the fans wait at the other side to throw stones and bricks at it. I watched the bus arrive and all the windows were smashed in and the players looked so frightened. The Fiorentina fans can sometimes be very aggressive and when they lose they really don't like it."

Canada fiasco enrages the fans

NORTHERN IRELAND fans are calling for the resignation of the country's manager, Lawrie McMenemy, after Tuesday's embarrassing 1-1 draw in a friendly against international minnows Canada.

Disgruntled supporters have had enough, as demonstrated by the boos that rang round Windsor Park at the end of this latest humiliation.

An own-goal from Brad Parker gave the Irish a 1-1 draw and prevented them from even greater shame, but that was of little comfort to the fans.

Following the debacle against a team ranked nearly 30 places lower than the Irish in the Fifa standings, supporters have been bombarding the Internet calling for McMenemy to be sacked.

"McMenemy out" and "the worst game I have ever experienced at Windsor Park" summed up the tone of the angry messages.

McMenemy claimed he "appreciated their disappointment", but the fans want his head rather than his sympathy.

They are unhappy that Northern Ireland's Euro 2000 qualifying campaign has fizzled out after just five games.

Martin Harris, the former secretary of the Northern Ireland Football Supporters Association, feels that McMenemy should be sacked and replaced by someone from the province, such as Jimmy Nicholl or Sammy McIlroy.

Harris, who was one of the handful of supporters who trav-

BY DAVID ANDERSON
in Belfast

elled to see Northern Ireland play in Spain and Moldova, feels the fans have lost faith in McMenemy.

"The game against Canada was awful," he said. "For the first 20 to 25 minutes we thought we were going to beat this team."

"But it then fell to pieces and in the end we were lucky to get an equaliser. By rights Canada should have won the game because they had some great chances."

"McMenemy came across really bad at the end of the game and we were joking if only our midfield could run as quick as he did to get out of Windsor Park. There's growing disquiet among the fans and the general feeling that I'm picking up is one of disillusionment. We're out of the European Championships and only a total optimist thinks we still have any chance."

Harris claims McMenemy's heart is not in the job.

"I was never in favour of McMenemy from day one and for me it's just an easy pay day for him," he said.

"Neither McMenemy nor his assistant Joe Jordan are from Northern Ireland so they do not understand how Northern Ireland players tick or work."

"I think the IFA [Irish Football Association] should buy him out of his contract and get somebody else in. The new man



Northern Ireland's Iain Dowie (right) beats Canada's Jason Devos to the ball in Tuesday's 1-1 draw at Windsor Park

would then have a few competitive games to prepare for the next World Cup campaign.

"McMenemy has managed just one competitive win in five games and he's just not the man for the job."

"I would like to see a local man in charge like Jimmy Nicholl or Sammy McIlroy. At least they would know

what our players are like and how to work with them."

The IFA will not bow to the demands of the fans and the president, Jim Boyce, stated after the 3-0 home defeat by Germany that McMenemy would remain until the end of the qualifying campaign when his contract is due to be reviewed.

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Finney tips Ferguson knighthood Crewe supply Gradi fillip

SIR TOM FINNEY has backed the Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson, to receive a knighthood if his side capture the European Cup next month.

The Preston North End and England legend Sir Tom received his own knighthood in the New Year's Honours list in 1998 and believes Ferguson has more than matched the requirements to receive the highest honour.

"Alex couldn't have done much more than he already has," Sir Tom said.

"I think he will get a knighthood if he wins the Champions Cup this year or the Double."

"But I think the European

BY IAN RODGERS

Cup is uppermost in his mind. I don't think there is a greater achievement than that. He has done a fantastic job at United."

"And it has been so important that he has brought so many youngsters through and kept the English flag flying."

But Sir Tom added that there had been missed opportunities that had been missed off the honours list for knighthoods.

"Bob Paisley was unfortunate not to receive one because he had a fantastic career at Liverpool," Sir Tom said.

"It was a great achieve-

ment but you don't think about these things until you get them."

"It is a great honour and there are few of them in the football world. It is a one-off and you don't get many knighthoods in a lifetime."

Ferguson could become the latest in a select band of football manager knights - if he receives the fans' backing.

Ferguson has enjoyed unprecedented success at Old Trafford and is hoping to guide the club to a unique Treble: the European Cup, the Premiership title and the FA Cup.

A successful season to the season could enable the Scot to take his place alongside other

knights such as Sir Matt Busby and Sir Alf Ramsey.

According to Downing Street, Ferguson has a reasonable chance of receiving the award.

Victory in the European Cup final next month would certainly move Ferguson nearer a personal treble, as he was awarded the OBE in 1995 and the CBE 10 years later.

"If Manchester United supporters wanted to vote en masse, they could do," a Number 10 spokesman said.

The person needs to be nominated and anyone can nominate anyone.

"The honours system is open for absolutely anybody to

nominate anyone for any honour they want to nominate them for."

"All they have to do is contact the Nominations Union for a form and the form is duly filled in by the person who wishes to nominate. It is quite straightforward."

"There are lots of people who are nominated and Mr Ferguson would have to be considered among the other nominations."

"We get thousands of nominations for the Queen's Birthday Honours and the New Year Honours."

All applications are judged by an honours panel whose composition is kept secret.

CREWE KEPT Dario Gradi,

their manager, on edge until securing the three points that lifted them out of the First Division relegation zone. Seth Johnson's first-half goal secured a 1-0 win at home to bottom-placed Bristol City on Tuesday.

Gradi said: "It was an important win but it shouldn't have been such a close game. If Mark Rivers had taken his two chances we could have been cruising in the last 20 minutes, but I don't want to criticise him because apart from that I thought he played really well."

"Bristol played a lot of high balls but we coped very well. It's hard to play football in a situation like this but we've got to try to play football and we handled the situation very well. I could have made any of our players man of the match tonight. If we win on Saturday we'll have a chance of avoiding the drop."

Benny Lennartsson, the Bristol City manager, was despondent but refused to concede that his side were down. He said: "I think it's a very remote chance that we could survive, but we won't stop before it's impossible for us to stay up so we'll go on fighting for another two games. I look back at the West Brom game when it was crucial to lose two points and because of that it took us a couple of games to get over the result. But the players have shown a lot of character. I'm pleased we have improved but we haven't improved enough."

We are still one step away from being a really good team."

Elsewhere, two late goals by the substitute John Taylor clinched automatic promotion for Cambridge United as a 2-0 win at Rochdale lifted them to the top of the Third Division table. Taylor converted an 84th-minute penalty with his first touch and added a header two minutes from time.

Brentford stay in the third automatic position but were denied all three points by Marco Gabbiadini's 31st goal of the campaign seven minutes from time in a 2-2 draw at mid-table Darlington. Wigan and Stoke both enhanced their chances of reaching the Second Division play-offs with victories as Bournemouth, currently occupying the final play-off spot, slipped up 2-1 at Colchester.

Jason Dozzell headed the 67th-minute winner which eased Colchester's relegation fears after Bournemouth's James Hayter and David Greene of the hosts had netted own goals in the first half. The Cherries, five games without a win, are now only four points ahead of seventh-placed Wigan having played three games more as Athletic won 3-1 at home to Lincoln City.

Colin Greenall, Andy Liddell and Carl Bradshaw with a penalty scored in the second half for Wigan. Steve Holmes' dismissal for deliberate handball did little to improve the Imps' chances of survival.

"Legally we do not have any power to do anything against any investor in Dundee. However, considering this man's background you would have to be very wary for his motives for buying into the club. Our country is at war with its associates and we want to keep the SPL free from anything that may be in effect a political tool."

Mitchell was also insistent that Dundee would be drummed out of the SPL if they failed to meet the deadline. The club were six weeks late starting the construction work and there have been suggestions that a ground-sharing deal with Airdrie, some 80 miles away, could be in the offing.

"The legal ball started rolling 18 months ago and Dundee knew that," said Mitchell. "If they don't meet the 31 July deadline they are effectively expelling themselves."

"If there are any doubts at all about the work being completed they must come to the SPL and the matter will be voted on fully by the clubs."

There are no fears that the new £35,000 SPL trophy will be adorning the Dens Park boardroom in the foreseeable future, with Rangers and Celtic the only possible first recipients. The trophy, designed by Magnus Finlayson, weighs 20 kilos.

"It is a great symbol of the role the Bank of Scotland is playing in the development of Scottish football," said Mitchell. "The SPL has established its rightful position and the senior clubs are now being heard."

The Hibernian manager, Alex McLeish, has written to the club's fans asking them to dig into their pockets for season tickets to help him buy new players for the Premier League.

The manager of the First Division champions has been promised all the turnstile and ticket money by the Easter Road board for new players for the return to the top flight.

McLeish has urged fans to back his newly promoted side, and help to build a team to challenge for honours in the. In a letter to supporters he said: "Season ticket money goes a long way to plan for the squad I need. The fans can help by purchasing a season ticket."

Taylor gives Hornets same old sting

WHAT AN astonishing story it would be if Graham Taylor's Watford managed to return to the Premiership.

The former England manager, back at the place where his managerial career took off, has got his Watford side back on the path to the Premiership after a dip in form at the turn of the year. Maximum points from their last two fixtures will guarantee a play-off spot.

Victory at Port Vale on Tuesday night helped Watford leapfrog their First Division rivals Bolton and Wolves to go sixth. A trip to Barnsley and a home game with Grimsby stand between Taylor and the play-off lottery which may pro-

vide the ultimate resurrection for the manager whose reputation, founded at Vicarage Road more than 20 years ago, was torn to shreds on the international scene.

Taylor's career has been packed with incident since he left Watford in 1987 bound for Aston Villa and then, of course, England in 1990. The England dream turned sour with a poor showing at the 1992 European Championships in Sweden and failing to qualify for the 1994 World Cup. A short spell at Wolves did not bring the quick fix the Midlanders had demanded and so it was back to team up again with his pop star chairman, Elton John. In the

hope of stirring Watford from their slumbers.

A repeat of the glory days when the Hornets stormed through the leagues, into the top flight in 1982 and Europe a year later, seemed far-fetched but an eyebrow or two are now being raised at Vicarage Road. The fans' favourite, Tommy Mooney, is in the form of his life and is relishing the challenge as Watford ride the crest of a wave towards the play-offs, which he rightly says are all about the form team in May. Two goals against Port Vale, last night made it six in five games for the former Scarborough player and gave Taylor's side their sixth successive win.

"I've never had a month like it, certainly not at this level of football," said Mooney. "I've scored a few important goals but the team has done well as a whole and we deserve to be where we are. I like scoring but I'm pleased when anybody scores a goal as long as we win."

Mooney's double helped Watford to a 2-1 win at Vale Park to keep their play-off charge on target and leave Port Vale in the relegation mire. "Going to Port Vale with them scrapping for their lives was always going to be difficult for us. There were a few incidents in the game and we had to cope with that as well," Mooney said.

Vale were furious when a tackle from Watford's Paul Robinson broke Stuart Talbot's leg with the score at 1-1. The Vale midfielder was carried off, Robinson escaped with a booking and Mooney went on to score the winner on the hour of the delight of the travelling fans. Mooney added: "Our fans were great. I'm lucky to have a special relationship with them and long may that continue."

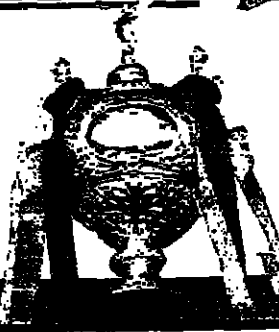
With Mooney and Watford heading for the play-offs in scintillating form, history could repeat itself for Taylor. And no one could deny him a smile of satisfaction if he steers the Hornets back to the top flight for the first time since 1982.

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SPORT

PARROTT'S CRUCIBLE EXIT P27 • FAREWELL TO A RUGBY PILGRIMAGE P22



Banks repeats British team gaffe

TONY BANKS, the minister for sport, yesterday risked a hostile reaction north of the border by using the Scottish press to repeat his call for a united British football team.

Banks confirmed a personal belief that unless a united Great Britain team is formed, none of the home countries will ever enjoy major success on the world stage.

"Scotland is one of the great football nations and have a fabulous qualifying record," Banks said. "But they have never got past the first round and if you think about them in English terms they are the West Ham of world football - they never

FOOTBALL
BY SIMON STONE

quite perform to their full potential.

"No one can argue that Scottish football at its best is some of the finest in the world. But Scotland never make it past the group stage and England consistently fail to find that extra push in the final stages. As Britain they would win it."

Scotland have qualified for six out of the last seven World Cups, although they have failed to make it through the first round phase on each occasion. A 3-0 drubbing against Morocco

saw them eliminated from France 98 after an encouraging start against the favourites Brazil.

However, their chances of making it through to Euro 2000 look slim following a home defeat by the Czech Republic last month and Banks believes there should now be an international rethink.

Banks admits that his controversial beliefs are unlikely ever to become a reality, although he is determined to secure a British presence in the Olympic football competition.

Any team taking part in the competition would have to play under the guise of a Great

Britain side. As a result, the home Football Associations have declined to enter a team, fearing it could undermine their powerful status as separate countries in football world governing body, Fifa.

"The idea of a Great British football team is one that people on both sides of the border have held for some time," Banks said. "Fifa president Sepp Blatter is talking about the possibility of a British team in the Olympics and I'd love to see that happen. But if we want to enter a soccer team in the Olympics we must find a way of getting round the fact we have four home countries. Maybe we could bring back the

Home Nations' Championship to decide things as it used to be a big feature of the football season," Banks said.

But the Scottish Football Association rejected Banks' call for a united Great Britain side. The SFA president, Jack McGinn, said: "Mr Banks is entitled to his opinion. However, there is no evidence to suggest that there is any support in the home countries for a Great Britain team."

Banks' comments brought a frosty response from the Scottish National Party's sports spokesperson, Kim Nicol, who took time out from campaigning in the Scottish Parliament

elections to attack the plan. "This is now the third time that Tony Banks has called for the Scottish national football team to be scrapped and replaced with a single UK [sic] team," she said. "The question must now be asked - 'do Tony Banks' bizarre views reflect the policy of this Government?' The danger is that Scotland would lose her national team."

As the Scottish Sports Minister, Sam Galbraith must say whether or not he agrees with his ministerial colleague's bizarre views. Tony Banks has been yellow-carded in the past for talking out of turn to the

Scottish people, but it's obviously made no difference."

Also making some bold statements this week was Desmond Desmond, the man who is set to become Celtic's biggest shareholder when Fergus McCann finally steps down as chairman in the summer.

Desmond believes Celtic can become bigger than Manchester United. He has a clear vision of the Bhoys' future and believes the club need to harness the worldwide support they currently enjoy. He has been very much a background figure since plunging £4m of his estimated £100m fortune into the club four years ago, but he is

now ready to step into the limelight, with Kenny Dalglish a key figure in his plans.

The former Liverpool manager has been linked with a new position as technical director at Parkhead and Desmond would welcome any involvement from Dalglish.

"Kenny did not have to try and buy the club in order to have a role at Celtic," he said. "We have stated we want a technical director and that is the next step. In five years' time Manchester United will probably have a bigger turnover than Celtic, but I believe we are potentially and intrinsically bigger than them."

Anelka makes apology over awards snub

NICOLAS ANELKA, the Arsenal striker, has issued a public apology to the Professional Footballers' Association for not appearing at its annual awards ceremony in London on Sunday.

The 20-year-old French international was voted Young Player of the Year by his fellow professionals - but the Arsenal captain, Tony Adams, had to accept the award on his behalf and Anelka was alleged later to have spent the evening instead at a nearby night-club.

Anelka said yesterday: "I would like to pass on my apologies to the PFA for not attending the ceremony on Sunday evening. Unfortunately, I was not aware of the full significance of this award and I am sorry for any misunderstanding, upset or ill-feeling it may have caused."

"It is a great honour for me to receive this highly regarded accolade and I would now like to take the opportunity to thank my fellow professionals for voting for me."

Peter Storr's last act as West Ham's director of football will be to sell the club's Chilean misfit Javier Margas.

Storr, who is leaving the Hammers at the end of the season, is set to fly to Chile in a quest to off-load Margas to a South American club, with the Santiago side Colo Colo leading the chase.

The Chilean international defender was hailed as a major signing when he moved to Upton Park for £2m from Uni-

BY TOMMY STANFORD

versidad Catolica after last summer's World Cup - but the transfer turned sour when he went home to Chile for treatment to a knee injury and never returned. He started just three Premiership games for the Hammers, whose manager, Harry Redknapp, said: "It doesn't look like he is coming back and that is a shame. The culture is different here and that is the gamble you take."

Newcastle United were yesterday anxiously waiting the return of their defender Andy Griffin from Hungary. The 20-year-old was carried off on a stretcher after half an hour of the England Under-21 side's 2-2 friendly draw with Hungary in Budapest on Tuesday, after turning an ankle as he challenged for a high ball.

"At the moment, we are still waiting to find out exactly from the England camp what's happened to him," a Newcastle spokesman said. "We'll make a final assessment when he gets back." If the injury is serious, Griffin may miss next month's FA Cup final.

The Hull City manager, Warren Joyce, and his assistant, John McGovern, have been given three-year contracts at Boothferry Park. The pair have taken the Tigers to the brink of safety in the Third Division, after they were nine points adrift at the bottom of the League at the start of the year.

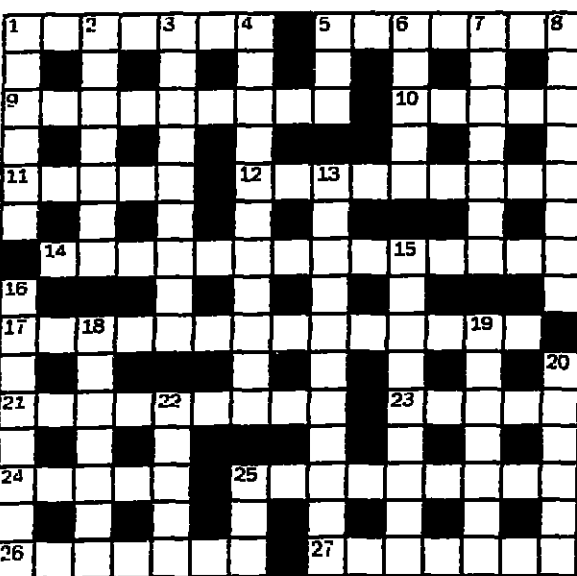


Gary Orr, of Scotland, plays in the pro-am while preparing for the Italian Open, which begins in Turin today

Paul Severn/Allsport

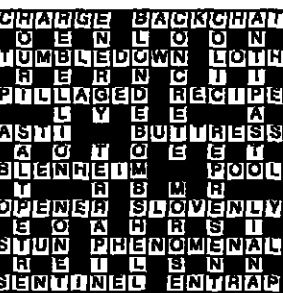
THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No.3909 Thursday 29 April by Sparius



- ACROSS**
- Movement by King Cole's men towards London area? (4-3)
 - Challenger scarce fitted to overcome union leader? (7)
 - International agreement on trial (4,5)
 - Discrimination is evident in meeting (5)
 - Quiet, everyone - here's the choir (5)
 - Stony exterior presented by unshaven players (9)
 - Refreshments during golf rounds? (4,10)
 - Containers for dripping (8,6)
 - Composite reason the French turned back (9)
 - Little agriculture around Havana? (5)
 - Fortified with spirits and
- DOWN**
- Hate type of des res on estate? (6)
 - Drinking bout has wife on attack (7)
 - Buzzer with which beadle starts meeting (8-3)
 - Austria having better laws, surprisingly, about drink levels? (5,6)
 - A quiet wood (3)
 - What remains smouldering after class conflict? (5)
 - Vegetable, very good one,

Wednesday's solution



- ACROSS**
- CHARGE BACKCHAM
 - YUMBLEDOWN LOYD
 - STILLAGE BECHIE
 - ASHT BUTTRESS
 - ATON EST
 - STENNIS MOOL
 - Y R B H
 - OPENER SLOVENLY
 - EOA K HRSIT
 - SHUN PHENOMENAL
 - RELS N
 - SENTINEL ENTRAP

- DOWN**
- served up in school (7)
 - Volume's turned up, disrupting repose: that's extreme (8)
 - Record found in Oundle's unfortunately not made public (11)
 - Short-tempered Liberal is left out in favour of Conservative, quite upset (8)
 - No flights home? (8)
 - Pipes from Britain on Greek island, not very large (7)
 - Takes in underworld leader (gets banged up inside) (7)
 - One's entertained by independent bishop, one with pressing duties (8)
 - Reminder, for instance, importunate creditor's sent over (5)
 - Dim characters from Swansea (3)

Janzen in rare trip to Europe

LEE JANZEN, the reigning US Open champion and world No 23, makes a rare appearance on the European Tour this week.

Janzen plays in the Italian Open at Circolo Golf, which begins today in Turin. The field also includes the Masters champion, Jose Maria Olazabal, Seve Ballesteros and the top three on the Order of Merit - Swindon's David Howell, Spaniard Miguel Angel Jimenez and Swede Jarmo Sandelin, winner of the Spanish Open on Sunday.

It was the 1993 Dutch Open which last saw Janzen compete in a regular tour event in Europe. He finished 19th then and does not expect it to be easy to beat that. "I fully expect it to be very competitive," said the 34-year-old. "That's the differ-

GOLF
BY MARK GARROD
in Turin

ence now. You can't go anywhere in the world and expect the field to be weak.

"There are so many more good players now. I've been impressed with people like Patrik Sjoland. I noticed at the World Matchplay [the Californian version in February] that he beat Jim Furyk and everybody took notice of that. He must be a heck of a player to have beaten him the way he did."

Sjoland, this week's defending champion, won 5 and 3 and victory on Sunday could take him above his compatriot Sandelin into fifth place in the Ryder Cup table.

What brings Janzen to Italy for the first time is a contract with one of the title sponsors.

"I've played a lot in Japan, but I figured I've been there enough and it's a much shorter trip to Europe," he added. "There's no reason why I shouldn't come here instead. Travel is getting easier, which means you can play more overseas. We play for a lot of money at home, so it's not easy to leave, but if you do well early in the year it opens the door to playing more abroad."

"I think it's very important to win outside the United States [though Janzen has never achieved that] and you can't do it if you don't play. I haven't done it as much as some guys, but I think it does help make you a more complete player and you

can see the world as well. Once my son Connor gets older we might travel a bit more."

Janzen was lying joint third at half-way in the Masters three weeks ago and remained only three off the lead with a round to go, but then shot 76 against Olazabal's 71 and finished only 14th. Olazabal returned to action in Barcelona last week and missed the cut. He admits he is still a little flat after the high of Augusta, but said: "It's just a matter of me putting myself in a position to win to bring the adrenalin back."

He and Janzen were Ryder Cup singles opponents at Valderrama two years ago - the American birdied the last three holes to win - but have not been paired together in the first two rounds tomorrow and Friday.

Janzen plays with Ballesteros and Argentina's Eduardo Romero, Olazabal with Sandelin and Scot Andrew Coltart. Howell has led the Order of Merit since his victory in the Dubai Desert Classic 10 weeks ago and if the 23-year-old can stay in the top two for another month a place in June's US Open at Pinehurst will be his. Otherwise, he will fly to the States to try to qualify.

But he knows he has to produce quality golf to achieve his aim. Prize money starts leaping up now with a winner's cheque of nearly £120,000 on offer this week, £133,333 at the Benson and Hedges International in a fortnight, then £200,000 in Germany and £216,000 at the Volvo PGA championship at Wentworth.

Hendry's relief at finding room with a cue

STEPHEN HENDRY has made more centuries than any other snooker player in history - more than 400 - but his biggest break has occurred away from the table. Thieves broke into his hotel room on Tuesday night and left his most precious possession behind.

Hendry, in Sheffield where he reached the semi-final of the World Championship last night with a 13-5 win over Matthew Stevens, returned to his hotel to discover hundreds of pounds worth of clothes and shoes had been stolen but the burglars, per-

SNOOKER
BY GUY HODGSON
At The Crucible

haps deliberately, had left untouched his cue and dress suit, which were lying on the bed.

To quantify his relief, albeit tempered by the loss of personal items, you must understand a cue is worth far more than the cost of the wood and

the materials. Players cherish their cue like their arms and prefer to stick with the same one throughout their career.

Hendry has won six world titles with his and the chance of his becoming the first modern player to claim a seventh would have disappeared if it had been lost. Alain Robidoux was a world semi-finalist two years ago but has barely won a match since his cue was stolen

in 1997 and has sunk this season from No 12 to No 37 in the rankings.

Police used a helicopter to search for the thieves but they got away with a leather jacket, a video recorder and other items. Hendry has refused to put a value on the cue even though a £10,000 reward was paid when it was stolen during a tournament in 1990.

"Stephen was at the Crucible

watching the snooker," Hendry's manager, Ian Doyle, said. "When he got back to the room and opened the door he realised immediately something was wrong. The police say it was sheer chance the room they broke into was Stephen's. He's not moving hotels, but he's changed rooms."

The defending champion, John Higgins, the world No 3 Ronnie O'Sullivan and the 1991 champion, John Parrott, are just some of the players staying at the hotel. It is believed no other room was touched.

هكذا هو الحال

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY



Iron Lady: the
Thatcherite Party of
Russia salutes you
(and wonders if you
fancy a night out?)



Popperfoto

It would be the office, I suggested, to begin by seeing the party headquarters. Dorotev hailed an unlicensed cab, and the driver took us – by mistake, I imagined at first – to a desolate industrial zone. He pulled up outside a sprawling cobalt plant. Yuri led the way through the main entrance and into a small side-room which, he pointed out, was the site of the party HQ. The room, which might have been the model for the office facilities in Terry Gilliam's film *Brazil*, was empty except for a desk, three chairs and a broken typewriter. Taking a seat, Dorotev explained that the finance for the office was "not quite in place". Was he getting paid for his

Listening to Elvis Costello seemed a curious recreation for Samsonov, bearing in mind that Costello's 1989 song "Tramp the Dirt Down" ends by Costello's beseeching God to grant him a long life so that he can be sure of seeing the former member for Finchley lowered into her grave. "Ah," said Samsonov. "I've not come across that one."

The conversation began conventionally enough, as we sat in the large workshop surrounded by Masslennikov's half-finished sculptures, mainly of female nudes. Gradually, however, his thoughts turned to philosophy. Great changes were coming, he said, adding that, through me, he was telepathically "tuning in"

Continued on page 8

Continued on page 5

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Incompetent and inept - but there is no alternative

THE LAST week has been widely described as William Hague's worst since becoming Tory leader. It was, in fact, only his worst week since his last worst week, which was the one immediately before, with its botched "Hague relaunch". Mr Hague ought to be wondering how many more "worst weeks" he can cope with. The rows over precisely what Thatcherism means to the Tories and what the Tories mean to do to the NHS and education were not even cathartic. They culminated in some high-profile scapegoating in the sacking of an official, Mr Michael Simmonds: harsh treatment for a routine bit of leaking.

Mr Simmonds's departure will not solve the Tories' problems: what it does is to highlight a fractious, nervous, incompetent Tory high command.

It need not have been so. The Tory leadership, to be fair, was well advised to nail the idea that they are intent on privatising the health service and state education. The voters clearly feel this. So Mr Hague set the Deputy Leader, Mr Lilley, about the task of changing the perception that, for Tories, market forces were all, and preparing the way for some new policies. But why did Mr Lilley have to commit his apparent act of apostasy on the very night that Margaret Thatcher, whose liking for market solutions is no big secret, was being simultaneously lauded at a special dinner to mark the 20th anniversary of her 1979 victory? Or court controversy during some important election campaigns? Why was it sold as a crude "ditching Thatcherism" exercise? Why were some members of the Shadow Cabinet not consulted? The exercise was spectacularly mishandled.

It is hard to believe that Mr Hague and his lieutenants could have got such basics wrong, but they have been consistently inept at this part of the political game. Mr Hague himself has been disappointing. If we were asked to create an Identikit ideal Tory leader, we would come up with the very assets that Mr Hague possesses. He is young, clever, state educated; he uses the NHS; he is classless; he comes from the centre-right, the centre of gravity of his party; he is, mostly, an impressive parliamentarian. And yet, curiously, Mr Hague contrives to be a man who is less than the sum of his parts.

What is even worse for Mr Hague is that he is beginning to look very small fry next to Tony Blair, now being presented as the effective leader of the free world.

This may, in fact, be part of the trouble. The Tories are becoming obsessed with the charisma gap between Hague and Blair. They are anxious students of the rebuilding of Labour. But they are learning the wrong lessons. They are mesmerised by the mythology of spin at the expense, even, of procedural basics.

In a speech last night Mr Hague again attempted to lend



clarity to a muddled message. But, as Michael Portillo has pointed out, "the spoken word has only a limited capacity to convince. It has to be accompanied by symbolic actions." Ditching Thatcherism on its birthday may have been a symbolic act: if so, it was the wrong one, as anyone with the slightest political nous could have pointed out in advance. Mr Portillo again: "You cannot ditch policies that succeeded so convincingly that they were adopted by your opponents."

The Scottish, Welsh and local elections are a crucial test of Mr Hague's leadership. He may be challenged if his party fares badly. But there is no obvious replacement. Mr Clarke would reconnect the Tories with the voters, but at the expense of even bigger splits. Mr Maude has not lived up to his promise. Mr Portillo is unavailable. And Miss Widdicombe might be too radical a shift, even for desperate Tories. If Mr Hague really is the best leader the Tories have got, then for him - and for his ill-fated spin doctor Amanda Platell - the worst weeks are yet to come.

Stop these intruders in our green fields

WHEN IS a green field not a green field? When it is anywhere in Middle England where money can be made. West Berkshire council has torn up its commitment to the environment after Vodafone, Newbury's biggest employer, threatened to leave unless it was given permission to build its new headquarters on a green-field site. This capitulation sets a dreadful precedent for rural England.

Vodafone is not just any company. In 10 years, the mobile phone maker has grown from nothing to being the 10th most valuable company in the world. This growth - and the 3,000 jobs that have come with it - has occurred from Vodafone's base in Newbury. Now that Vodafone has acquired America's AirTouch, it has outgrown its scattered premises and the company wants to bring its employees

together at one site. Newbury itself has contributed to Vodafone's prosperity. The town's location in the centre of southern England, its transport connections - road, rail and air - and the skilled local workforce have all helped Vodafone's growth. The company might have been damaged if it had moved. However, many cities and towns throughout southern England can match Newbury's conditions. And, with a mere 1.5 per cent unemployment, everyone who wants a job in Newbury has one.

It is worrying if the countryside cannot be protected even in such favourable circumstances. The equivalent of five cities the size of London have sprawled over England since the Second World War. Conserving the countryside is vital to keep our communities compact enough to encourage public transport, cut car pollution and reduce crime.

Occasionally somebody must suffer for the good of all. This Government has trumpeted its care for the environment. Its mood music needs some passion; John Prescott's department should call in a planning inquiry at once.

William Hague is leading his party into freedom (from government)

A FEW weeks ago, William Hague gave a speech to one of those myriad party bodies that leaders of the Opposition must address, while Prime Ministers busily bestir the world. It may have been the Wiltshire and North Hampshire Regional Association of Conservative Women annual Stanley Baldwin lecture in Devizes ("Last year we had Virginia Bottomley, so we are going up in the world"), but I forget.

This, edited of extraneous and irrelevant material, is what Mr Hague said: "Now our party can be free. Our party can choose to be free to face the future. We must choose to be free. Free of old structures, free of old habits, free of old thinking. We have to be free. For the sake of the British people, we have to be free. Free to face the future. Breaking free means being prepared to change our policies."

"Ours will be a party that has broken free. And to do that we have to be free. We're going to break free. Break free by changing our agenda. Break free by changing our policies. Break free by changing our approach and our language."

Well, no one can say they haven't been warned. Mr Blair wants to be a beacon, and Mr Hague wishes to be free. Indeed, there are some in his party who, after the last week, now want their leader to be almost completely unencumbered. They know that what William Hague wants to be free of are some of the things that they most like.

Essentially, it is all to do with the state. Lefties, even designer ones, are generally in favour of lots of state. They stress collective provision

against private provision in education and health. Their first priority is not to return to the individual what he or she has earned by the sweat of his or her own brow, but to sequester it so as to scatter it around for the benefit of those less provident. Right-wingers, free marketeers, economic liberals, want much less state; as little, in fact, as you can get away with. Such people will always be questing for ways to relieve the burden of the collective on the individual.

About four weeks ago, the junior health spokesperson, Alan Duncan - Hague confidant and deputy to Ann Widdecombe - made a keynote address to an even smaller group of people than those his leader usually speaks to. His emphasis was admirably clear. The NHS was limited in what it could do and we needed a whole load more private provision.

"We should now," he argued, "build a larger public-private mix in health care ourselves."

True, he skimmed on the details a little, though he helpfully extolled the virtues of homeopathy and stopped only just short of endorsing crystal therapy. Then, last week, came Peter Lilley's speech (the epitome, I suppose, of Hagueite free-ness). In it, when discussing health, Lilley detailed the various ways in which health care could be funded.

One by one he dismissed the possibilities, concluding that: "The only option left is to require all risks to be pooled - helping those on low incomes to pay the cost by charging more to those on high incomes." As he himself went on: "We all pay into a common

DAVID AARONOVITCH
If Mr Hague wanted to signal real change, he would begin to embrace Europe, not continue to disparage it

fund through our taxes an amount unrelated to our state of health but related to our income."

No wonder Ann Widdecombe, a woman to whom barefaced lying does not come easily, became suffused with misdirected rage yesterday, when questioned too closely on the contradiction.

We have, of course, been down this road before. Many Tories are impatient about their past. They feel that they have no need to wear hair shirts or to flail themselves with scourges for the sins of the Thatcher era. Like the Labour left in 1979, their strong view is that it was an insufficiency of radicalism, not an excess, that lost them the last election. And they certainly know better than all the focus groups in the world what the voters really want. After all, did not

the polls consistently show opposition to privatisation and trade union reform? And did the Tories not win election after election subsequently? It was weedy Majorism that squandered the Thatcher patrimony.

This is, in many ways, an attractive argument. For 15 years it was Labour that struggled to be free of its past, beginning with its volte-face on council house sales and continuing with Neil Kinnock's battle with Militant, concessions over unilateral nuclear disarmament, the closed shop and privatisation.

In the 10th year of Thatcher's premiership, 1989, the fall of the Berlin Wall seemed to set its seal on the ascendancy of the free-market right. Maggie and Ronnie had brought about the end of history: all that remained was for the revolution to be consolidated. In 1994, the Congressional landslide victory of Newt Gingrich and the US Republicans suggested a next, exciting stage for the anti-state right.

But it is the utter political defeat of that contract with America which leaves Mr Hague with his current problem. There turned out to be no great voter desire for further right-wing radicalism. The focus groups are all telling William to get into the centre ground and scrap with Mr Blair there: there is to be no more "rolling back". Which means that the Tories have to show, as the Fifties Conservatives did, that they are every bit as committed to public provision as Labour are.

That's why Debbie and Chris, their wholesome election broadcast couple just like a couple in a sex-education

video, except without the sex, are always going on about postponed hip operations, not high taxes.

True, I agree with Hague that, for the time being, radical anti-statism has no appeal. But he is hampered by two factors. The first is that, whatever the Tories (too few of whom used public education) may choose to believe, their stewardship of some of the public services was a disaster (a real one, not a "perceived" one).

After nearly 20 years of Tory custodianship, Britain is beaten only by Poland and Ireland for levels of illiteracy and innumeracy. It will take some time for this malign legacy to be dissipated. As yet, there has been no admission of guilt.

The second is that the most obvious symbol of the bad old Tory past from which any party might wish to be free, is probably its hostility towards Europe. Whatever the polls may seem to say, if Mr Hague had wanted to signal a real change of heart to the electorate, he would have begun to embrace Europe, not continued to disparage it. Then he could have had a productive, bloody battle with the Tebbits and other ghosts of Conservatism's past, eventually win, and be master in his own house. And being Clarke over Europe might then have allowed him to be a bit more Widdecombe over funding. He flunked it.

Even so, it is clear that Majorism, not Thatcherism, is the destiny of the party. It is to become, once again, the party of volunteers and *bourgeoisie* oblige, the Women's Institute and garden shows. But not, I think, of government. They'll be free of that.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Violence is a worldwide issue."
The Duchess of York,
at the scene of the Columbine High School massacre

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Let me pass. I have to follow them. I am their leader."
Alexandre Ledru-Rollin,
leader of the French revolution of 1848,
as he forced his way through a mob

THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH



Elves in Oak Tree in Kensington Gardens
by David Rose Ref. 00113

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Comment on the current situation in the
Indonesian territory of East Timor

THE INDONESIAN military has embarrassed and betrayed Australia, New Zealand, the US and the UK. It has shown that it cannot be trusted. Its behaviour in East Timor must serve as a warning to Australia to seriously review its own security and military strategy, one predicated on a close co-operation with an army that has shown itself to be a liability. Australia and New Zealand should urgently build up their defence capability with a stronger navy

and air force and a greater ability for rapid intervention because, on the face of the evidence, they are going to need it.
José Ramos Horta, Sydney Morning Herald, Australia

WHILE IT is indeed a giant step forward that the Indonesian president has accepted the need for an UN presence, it would be foolhardy to be over-optimistic that the early August vote will be totally violence-free.

It might be necessary for the UN to ensure that the Indonesian army stays completely out at election time. Even if Indonesian troops don't intervene, their armed presence

would be intimidating enough to stultify a free and fair ballot.
Hong Kong Standard, China

IF THE Indonesian military is simply sitting on its hands as

East Timor tears itself apart, or promoting that outcome, then clearly the international community must move to restore order. The United Nations must send a substantial team to East Timor to ascertain how best to halt the killings which are now happening on a daily basis. It may be that such a team determines that the only way to end the violence there is through a full-scale UN peacekeeping force. That is against the wishes of Indo-

nesia, but it is the direction in which events in East Timor are heading.
The Age

BEFORE ALL hope of a peaceful, negotiated transition in East Timor is undermined, an international presence needs to be placed in the territory to oversee the vote. This is made essential by Indonesia's flagrant neglect of its responsibility to provide law and order.
The Washington Post

PANDORA

EMMANUEL PETIT (pictured) is a handful on the park - and he knows how to do a one-two off the pitch as well. Arsenal's Gallie star is moving to North London's chichi Primrose Hill. So the Gunners' midfield maestro sent a round robin to his neighbours to introduce himself, and say how much he was looking forward to meeting them. His letter also contained a plea that shows that, while you can take the man out of France, you can't completely take France out of the man. Did any of his new neighbours have, he wondered, a cave (French for a cellar) he could use? Seems that Petit's extensive bottle collection's already outstripped the space available in his new home.

VULCAN FOUNDLING John Redwood is driving colleagues further and further around the bend with his increasingly idiosyncratic brand of Euroscepticism. He's been telling anyone who will listen - hey, where's everybody going? - how he favours Jaguars because we should buy British. Hold up, what are those wheels a spotter saw the Vulcan catching a ride in after a Commons debate this week? Could it really be a Mercedes? Ja.

TRAVEL BUSINESSES dealing with Turkey say bookings are plunging. Agents blame both the Balkans conflict and warnings by Kurdistan Workers' Party terrorists that the PKK will target tourists this year. Could this deadly duo be affecting Greece's inbound traffic too? Neh (Greek for yes), according to the trade book *Travel Weekly*. A client called an agent to cancel his holiday on the island of Kos. She asked him why. He replied: "Isn't it the capital of Kosovo?"



SO, PATRICIA Arquette and her spouse Nicolas Cage are heading for Split City. Coincidentally, Arquette stars in *Goodbye Lover* with Don Johnson, who is expected to get spliced with Kelley Phleger this week. Considering the 49-year-old star's well-publicised roistering, the bride should enjoy those cries of "lucky girl!" while she can.

"LIBERAL DEMOCRATS are so far in bed with Tony Blair that they're just a hideous lump under the duvet," says Tory hopeful Francis Maude on Lib-Labbery. Sure, Frankie, but at least the minority party is still in the game - which is more than can be said for your Fraxious mob just now.

MORE HORSETRADING in the race to succeed Paddy to lead the yellow party. At the launch of J Thorpe's memoirs this week, some liberal voices sounded disappointed that Nick Harvey (North Devon) had pulled up at the first fence. Not so, say Harvey's camp. Their man has just been "negotiating" with the dapper new frontrunner Menzies Campbell (Fife North East). Pandora hopes the Campbell-Harvey pow-wow is more productive than a recent meet between David Rendel (Newbury) and Simon Hughes (Berkshire); Hughes's camp emerged saying Rendel would stand aside for their man - strangely, Rendel's handlers' version was the precise opposite.

DROP EVERYTHING Dept. "In other places, spring means daffodils, lambs and plowing (sic) the fields but in Slough it means that the Slough Jets are holding their annual 'all star' fundraising evening" - news release.

WESLEY CLARK, the supreme commander of Nato's Balkan bombing campaign, said this week: "We've only just begun." This echoes the Carpenters' identically titled 1970 hit. Next year the duo released "Hurting Each Other" - and, in what may prove a prescient third release, in 1972 they followed through with "It's Going To Take Some Time".

GERALD CORBETT, the Railtrack boss, claims he plays a video of an especially savage grilling by the Transport Select Committee to his teenage children "to make them feel sorry for me". And Pandora thought her domestic life was quirky...

Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk

Vinnie Jones tackles sensitivity



DEBORAH ORR

Soon there will be no facet of human activity that this man hasn't dragged into disrepute

trollop: Vinnie Jones: Agony Uncle". Is there no beginning to Vinnie's talents, one asks yet again. Footballing, acting, writing and now counselling. Soon there will be no facet of human activity that this man hasn't dragged into disrepute. Needless to say, his advice is shocking.

Q: My girlfriend dumped me for another man and I'm struggling to

remain her friend. Am I wrong to get angry with her?

A: Turning your back on feelings is hard, so I won't tell you to just forget about her...

Q: My girlfriend wants to have kids but my sexy and slightly mad ex has recently come back on the scene. I'm torn.

A: ...You can't keep going off to see your ex just because it's easy to give her one...

See what I mean? Shockingly sensitive. But what about that trollop? A workmate girlfriend with whom our correspondent has fallen in love. She won't stop two-timing him with their boss, and he fears for their future happiness as well as both of their jobs. We women have a word for gals like that, too, Vinnie. And it's "trollop". There's no need to go bandying that offensive word "old" about, you know.

Although, in *Late* (which should perhaps instead be titled *Earlier*), old is good.

Take a look at the heroes of the *Late* lad, all of whom are showcased in issue one. Barry Sheene, Odd Job from *Goldfinger*, Harry Grout (the Guv'nor in *Porridge*),

James Caan (circa *Rollerball*), Clint Eastwood, Bruce Lee, David Bailey, Leonard Rossiter and James Hunt.

And the heroines? *Late* requests that you ask your dad about them. Brigitte Bardot, Marilyn Monroe, Jane Fonda and Marianne Faithfull. Familiar faces from the old days, when men were men and women were women, and when sexual politics hadn't been invented.

Not that you entirely get the idea that the *Late* lad longs for those days. He wishes instead that his girlfriend could be an entirely emancipated but utterly old-fashioned pin-up.

Since quite a number of women seem to want that too, there is likely to be no shortage of candidates for the readers' girlfriends section, in which ordinary women are photographed by top photographers and interviewed about what they want from their sexual partners. There's progress of some kind here, I think, but I'm not sure what kind of progress it may be.

So what does it all mean? Who is the *Late* lad, and will women like him? Well, stop me if you've heard this one before, but he's an eternal

child still mulling over the world that opened up to him when he was 18. But only because he knows there are things he still hasn't quite resolved from early adolescence, that really do need to be sorted out before he can move on.

In fact, there's a feature in the magazine in which one intrepid reporter goes out and spends a day doing the things he would have done at 15. Of course, he has a girlfriend, who gamely submits to the kind of seduction techniques at the author's 15-year-old command.

But while the writer enjoys his day as an adolescent, he realises that it is important for him to progress. Progressing means being successful and having some money, thus making it easier for a chap to settle down with his girlfriend. And while he isn't actually begging for baby-care tips, he knows that any sensible man will want children eventually, and that any sensible man will just do exactly what he's told to do when it comes to looking after them. Decent chaps.

Like a laugh, love a girlfriend. Surely there's a market here - for the magazine and for the men.

Black and Asian Britons still can't trust the police



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

When police dogs are treated cruelly, officers are sent to prison. We obviously matter less

AN OBVIOUS point. In a democratic society, the police can function only by consent. Trust must underpin that consent, but for a good long time we, black and Asian Britons, have not had that basic faith in the British police force.

I lost mine when I went on an anti-National Front demonstration in Southall. It was St George's Day in April 1979, exactly 20 years ago. I was then a young, fiery woman who could run in platform-heel sandals, thank God. I went full of hate for the National Front and I left full of fear and loathing of the Metropolitan Police. Two thousand, seven hundred and fifty-six officers, several dogs and a helicopter invaded the tiny suburban locality. Young people were coshed and kicked in front of my eyes and Blair Peach, a young white teacher, was beaten to death by one officer from the frenzied Special Patrol Group. The officer was never identified or tried but 342 Southall Asians were, some of them charged with deliberately putting their heads in the way of police boots.

This would all be history were it not for the fact that the ugly tradition of protecting racist policemen is still very much with us. And in spite of the well-tuned contrition and statements of good intent which have been gushing out of the Met and other forces since the Lawrence Inquiry, I see little reason as yet to be optimistic.

I will change my mind when I see one, just one, high-profile sacking of a racially violent police officer or when I see real evidence that when police officers have failed properly to protect black and Asian citizens - such as Paul Condon, whose repeated failures have been whitewashed in a damning PR exercise with the collusion of those who should know better - they are held to account.

Take this week. Angry black and Asian peers of the realm have complained that the police have failed to take seriously the death threats that they have received from racist groups. The Met has also had to apologise for fabricating information about Roger Sylvester, a black man who died in police custody after being restrained. What good is the massive recruitment drive for more black and Asian officers and expensive anti-racist training if there is no attempt to root out racism - witless, violent and at times murderous - within the forces?

A disproportionate number of black, Asian and Irish people die in custody following the use of force. A Home Office report on deaths in custody shows clear disparities between different racial and ethnic groups. According to Inquest, a campaign and support group working with the families of those who die in custody, between 1989 and 1996 there were 102 deaths of blacks in custody, of which 51 were in police cells. The Met record is not good. In 1996, for example, 35 per cent of

those who died in their custody were black or Asian. These were not all deaths caused by the police, of course. But many died as a result of neckholds, CS sprays and other forms of restraint.

Sir Paul has been running the ship since Joy Gardner was killed in front of her five-year-old son. Since then we have had the deaths of Shaji Lapite, Brian Douglas, Wayne Douglas, Ibrahim Sey and Roger Sylvester. Not one officer has ever been punished for any of these deaths. And if you want to see what this does to family members, go and listen to Joy Gardner's mother Myrna, as she addresses one public meeting after another. She is going mad with grief - as I would if I felt that the death of my child, caused by the custodians of law and order, meant nothing to this country.

At least we hear about the deaths. What we know barely anything about is what goes on in the back of police vans, on our streets and in police cells where black, Asian and Irish people are physically assaulted, threatened and terrorised by officers for no good reason.

The list of the known victims is long enough. Claudette Thompson was assaulted by a policeman who then bit his own finger and claimed that he had acted in self-defence. The teeth marks did not fit, so £50,000 was paid out to keep things quiet. And £200,000 went to Danny Gosselin, who was handcuffed and beaten by officers. Sir Paul Condon defended these policemen in court.

A significant number of black and Asian people use the civil claims complaints system against brutal policemen. The Met and others simply settle out of court with public funds. When police dogs are treated cruelly officers are tried and sent to prison. We obviously matter less.



Blair Peach's coffin is carried through Southall in 1979 PA

is the fact that the Police Complaints Authority and the Crown Prosecution Service have also failed to respond properly to this problem, even when Inquest juries return a verdict of unlawful killing. In the case of Shaji Lapite, who was killed in 1994, the verdict of unlawful killing was unanimous. Yet for five years neither the police nor the prosecution has chosen to take action against the perpetrators, despite a successful judicial review which challenged their inaction.

What is heartening, though, is that committed lawyers and others such as Deborah Cole, the director of Inquest, carry on fighting for justice in the face of this cross-institutional protection racket. Raju Bhatt and Fiona Murphy - both bright and passionate lawyers - and others, too, who represent many of the bereaved families, do what they do at great personal cost. Not only are they unlikely to become fat-cat lawyers, but they are also seen as a threat by many in the criminal justice system. The Police Federation and others brand them as "political

agitators" and "subversives", just as Rosemary Nelson was by the RUC in Northern Ireland. As Murphy says, the system is utterly bankrupt. We need to create a police force in which integrity is non-negotiable and where instead of falling over themselves to prevent action against racist police officers, there is a new morality that insists upon it.

We can trust the police only if it is seen to be done. And the police can do their job dealing with the real problems of crime within our communities only if they have this trust from the rest of us. Last Monday, Jack Straw had a meeting with bereaved families, Inquest and others. He is reflecting on whether we need a public inquiry. We do, but we need more than that, Jack. We need heads to roll before we black and Asian Britons can feel safe in the hands of the British police. This is a crucial issue for the whole of society. If this racism is allowed to go unpunished, other evils too will grow and the culture of an arrogant and unaccountable police force will affect all citizens in the end.

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The two styles of Muslim leadership

UPON THE answer to the question of who speaks for Muslims concerns rest the concerns and thinking of many in the West; not only scholars and journalists but also policy-makers and political leaders. Yet there is a great deal of wishful thinking in providing the answer. In the West, it is well to remember that Western experts, on the eve of the Shah of Iran's fall in the late Seventies, were predicting Iran's emergence as a modern, secular force in Asian politics that would dominate the region for decades. There was no Islamic cloud on the horizon. Western analysts have therefore got it spectacularly wrong before. They need now to be more cautious, more analytic and more understanding about what is happening in the Muslim world today.

To many Western commentators and leaders the model they would like to see succeed in the Muslim world prejudices them in favour of that model and against the other ones. They overlook the serious shortcomings of their favourite group, which in turn explain the popularity of the opposed

models. The more they support one group, the greater the internal pressure in society to bolster and push up the other group. That is why the tussle becomes international and global from regional and local.

When speaking of Muslim leadership let us not talk to the sophisticated leaders who have returned from Ivy League colleges or the Oxbridge ones to provide leadership to their societies. Let us talk to the ordinary man and woman in the Muslim world who must face the brunt of the injustice, oppression, collapse of law and order and escalating prices that have become the daily grind. To these ordinary Muslims, their first priorities are law and order; a feeling of safety and security at home, and a desire to see justice being done. Finding little succour in Western-style democracy they invariably fall back to the regional and local Islamic support being offered them. At least in Islam there is the hope of justice and law and order.

The two opposed models of leadership that clearly confront each other are: first, one based in the newly emerged religious groups, as in Afghanistan; and



PODIUM

AKBAR AHMED
From an address by the Cambridge don to the Royal Commonwealth Society's 'Leadership in Islam' conference

secondly, one found in the democratic societies such as Pakistan and Bangladesh. The first is rooted in the *Madrasah*, the village or religious school, and creates a student with a defined vision of the world. The aim is to propagate Islam and alter the world order to do so. Theirs is the rhetoric of confrontation and violence, of sacrifice and challenge. The other model, which has struggled to survive and has

shown resilience in spite of many hurdles, is based on a democratic order. Leaders are thrown up in elections and they then attempt to carry out their election promises during their tenure for the allocated period in office.

The relevance of M A Jinnah (the founder of Pakistan) to this model is great. It was not only his sense of abiding by the law but also his integrity which made it work. It allowed deflection of his critics, who said he was not an orthodox Muslim. Although they could challenge him for not being regular at prayer or dressing like a Muslim or failing to grow a beard, they could not challenge him on his integrity or high moral principles.

The style and content of this leadership are different. It is not only a question of superficial sartorial differences. There are substantial ideological and philosophical differences. One believes in being educated in the indigenous vernacular and using Arabic as the base language; the other in English and looking towards Westminster. One believes that society is God-ordained and it is the duty of every Muslim to

change it according to the laws of God; the other that democracy must prevail and the voice of the majority must be heard. One believes in wearing traditional clothes, living a simple life and remaining close to the roots of society; the other in aspiring to the style of leadership of other world democracies, which often involves vast expenses beyond what the local treasury can support.

One believes in honesty and integrity as a moral duty; the other talks of integrity and morality but is often seen to be violating them in behaviour. One believes that Islam and only Islam is the way of life; the other, while acknowledging Islam, also takes into account other religions and cultures and incorporates this into their constitutions.

One believes in challenging the West head on and targeting the Jews and Christians as the enemy; the other believes that we are related to a global system that requires some interdependence and some cultural interpenetration, and that the Muslim world can learn from, and absorb, the West.

Can they rebuild the Orient?



HAMISH MCRAE

East Asia will again become a success – but it will be different: fewer fireworks, more slog

HOW LONG, politicians and economists have been asking, can one-quarter of the world economy remain in recession without pulling down the remaining parts? The threat that the recession in East Asia may spread to the rest of us has hung over us for nearly two years. Russia and Latin America were caught in the back-draught, though North America and Western Europe have mostly escaped.

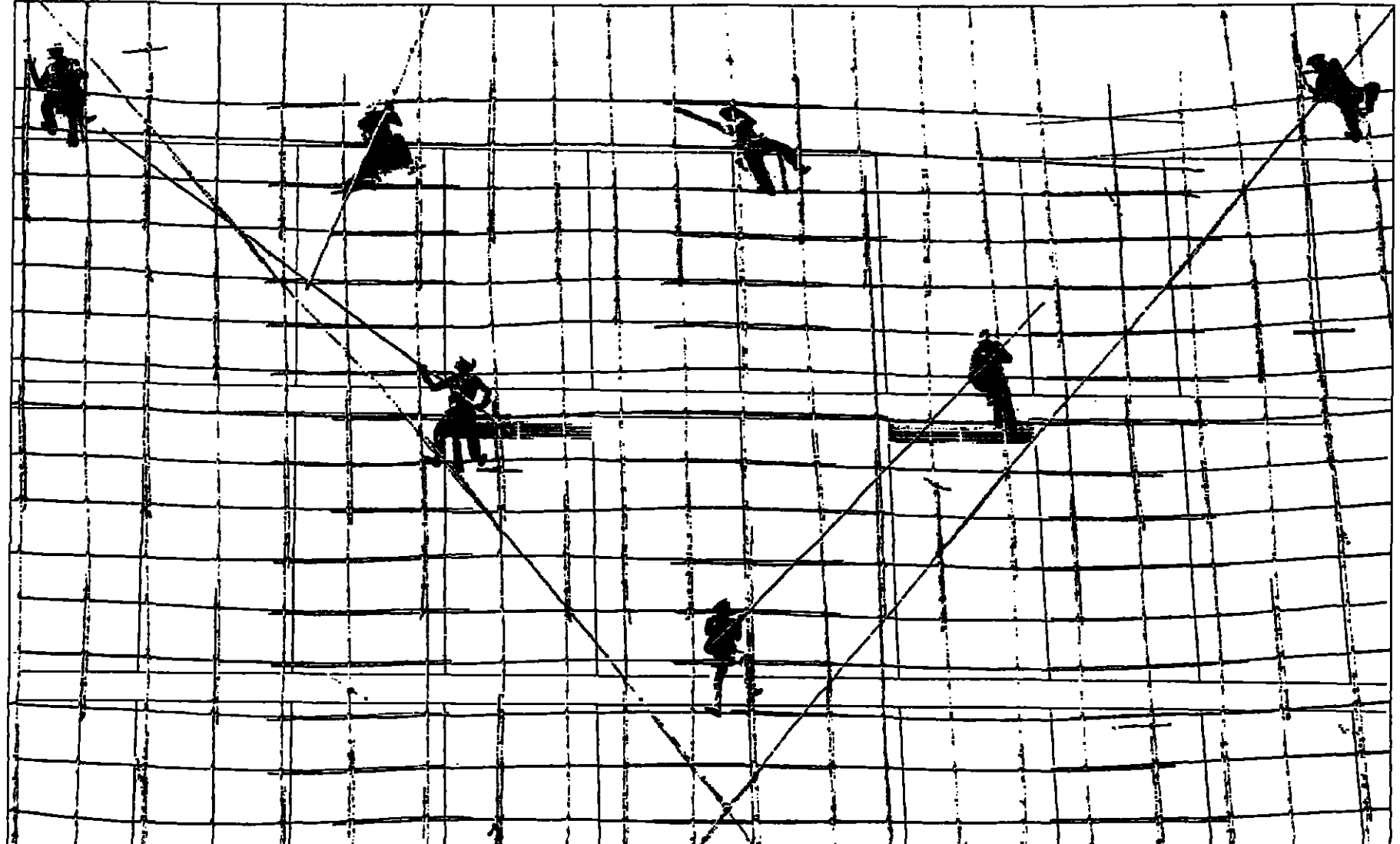
But now, perhaps, there are signs that East Asia is struggling back to health. Stock markets are perking up; some countries are growing again; the managing director of the IMF, Michel Camdessus, said earlier this week that the emerging market crisis seemed to be over. Is he right? Can we – and they – relax?

The answer is yes, and no. Crises always pass: financial markets cannot manage to sustain high levels of panic for long. Once investors have accepted that they have in all probability lost a lot of money they knuckle down and get on with something else. During the last two years, while Western investors were losing money in East Asia, Russia and Latin America, they were also making it in Europe and North America. By a strange and, in a way, fortunate irony, the losses made in one part of the world have been offset by the gains in another.

But that is to see the world from a Western perspective: you win some, you lose some. If your bit of the world is the loser, the passing of the financial crisis is small comfort. What matters is whether or not you have a job.

Whether you do varies vastly from country to country. We tend to think of the East Asian economies as pretty much a single entity – something almost akin to the European Union or the countries in the North American Free Trade Agreement. But they are not. The countries are different, the cultures different, the levels of economic development vastly different. If you look at these economies there are essentially three stories: one about Japan, one about China and another about the rest of the region.

The Japan story is that things are still getting worse, but at a slower rate than before. Anyone who visits



Builders at work on a high-rise development in Hong Kong dismantle the bamboo scaffolding characteristic of the Far East

Japan will be hard put to see signs of recession in the streets: everyone seems to be busy, bustling about. But that does not mean that the economy has recovered. Incomes are falling, the official jobless total is rising, companies are going bust. Last year, private demand in Japan fell by 4.2 per cent. That is a larger fall in living standards than we have experienced here in Britain in any year since the Second World War. This year living standards will fall further. There is a further dimension to the Japanese difficulties: falling prices, or deflation. There is no theoretical reason why economies should not enjoy decent growth despite falling prices. That is what happened in Britain during much of the last century. But we have no recent experience of this, and Japan's present deflation follows an extraordinary boom. The borrowing that financed that has not been paid back, making recovery even harder. We experienced negative equity in our housing market and very unpleasant it was. Japan's whole economy is experiencing something like that, with similar disagreeable consequences that will dog the economy for a decade.

All economies – even those in the grip of deflation, such as Japan – are ultimately self-correcting. Leave them alone for long enough and eventually they will recover. Will that recovery come this year, as the Japanese government expects? Or will there be another year of decline, as most private forecasters expect? Faced with this divergence of views, the sensible thing to do is to trust the private sector: the government has been consistently wrong. But the idea that the Japanese economy will decline for ever and a day is absurd. If you look into the tea-leaves for signals of when the turning-point may come, they are currently giving a murky message. At the moment both Japanese consumers and small firms seem to be becoming a little less pessimistic, though large firms are becoming more gloomy. My guess, talking to people whose judgement I trust, would be that the turning-point will come either towards the end of this year, or in the early part of next. But that is only a guess. I am more sure that when the recovery does come it will be an uneven, halting one. But that is all right. Just stopping being a drag on the region will be enormously helpful to Japan's regional trading partners.

At least there is plenty of data about Japan. If you have figures at hand you can begin to work out whether they are right or wrong. The trouble with China is that you know the data is wrong, but you don't know how wrong. What do we know about China? It is an enormous economy which had, until a year or so ago, been growing very fast. But in the last year that growth has faltered. We know that prices are falling fast and that this is putting great pressure on businesses. People are either losing their jobs or fearing that they may do so, and as a result savings are shooting upwards. We know that the government is pumping money into the economy in an effort to maintain growth, and that this seems to be having some effect. We know, too, that the government was desperate to join the World Trade Organisation, almost certainly because, in the long term, China needs access to foreign markets and fears that this might be curtailed. But the bid was blocked by the American administration, and we don't know how serious a knock-on effect that may have on business confidence.

Equally, we don't know how serious the present slow-down really is. There are some hard figures. Take textiles. The industry employs more than 16 million people – equivalent to more than half the entire workforce of Britain. Textile exports are running 20 per cent down on last year. It is inevitable that some of those 16 million people will lose their jobs. Unlike the Japan story, where we know within broad limits what will happen, the China story can develop in a number of different ways. The nightmare is that the country will experience a serious recession next year, while the rest of the region remains fragile. The more hopeful possibility is that the authorities will be able to keep the economy growing, though maybe more slowly, through the next couple of years. But we don't know.

The third story, about the rest of the region, is really a collection of lots of little tales, all different. There are fairly happy ones, such as South Korea, where unemployment has been falling since last autumn and growth has restarted, and Taiwan, which has come through the regional crisis better than any other country. There are seriously gloom ones, such as Indonesia, where it is hard to be optimistic about either the economy or the politics. And there are completely flaky ones, such as Malaysia, where various government controls have concealed wider economic weakness. No one knows what will happen in the next couple of years as the controls are eased – particularly as political uncertainty has been piled on top of economic uncertainty. There is simply no common theme. There has, however, been a common experience. East Asia was, until two years ago, the most successful economic region in the world. For at least two decades (four in some countries, such as Japan), the region had generated the fastest growth and the greatest rises in living standards that this planet had ever known. Most people could remember only success. This had a profound effect on the psychology of the region: people were pretty cocky. Sometimes they were charmingly cocky, and sometimes they were, or less charming. That has gone. Travel in the region and you find a variety of reactions: anger, resentment, maybe a touch of judgement and wisdom. Of course, East Asia will again become an economic success story – the vigour of its people will see to that – but it will be a different sort of success: fewer fireworks, more slog. But no, neither they nor we, can relax. Big bumps still lie ahead.

RIGHT OF REPLY

HUGH BELSEY



The curator of Gainsborough's House takes issue with Andreas Whittam Smith

"DESPICABLE." NOT, as stated by Andreas Whittam Smith in his article about the sale by Marlborough College of the Gainsborough picture *The Byam Family*, what I think about the painting going abroad, but "despicable" that the college is selling the painting at all.

In the memory of both the Master and of the donor's family, Henry Hony gave (not bequeathed) the portrait of his ancestors Mr and Mrs Byam to Marlborough College in 1955 believing that it would remain there and, to use the current parlance, be an educational resource. Then, a gentleman's agreement was all that was necessary for the gift.

As for exporting British works of art, each must be considered on its own merits. With 400 Turner oils in the Tate it would be difficult to argue that the nation needs more, but a Gainsborough of this distinction is a different matter. The only similar painting is already in Florida. Few "grand-style" Gainsboroughs are available to the British public and fewer still are ever likely to come on to the market.

The difficulty with a purchase by any British gallery is that it will need the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund which, after the debacle of the Churchill papers, concerns itself with the status of the vendor. And it is unlikely that it will wish to line the coffers of a privileged school. It is a strange contrast with the purchase by the Fitzwilliam Museum 15 years ago – partly with public funds – of a magnificent Poussin owned by the disgraced Anthony Blunt.

One final point. Mr Whittam Smith's skills at editing were much in evidence when he last looked at Gainsborough's painting of *The Mail in the Frick Collection*. The painting shows at least a dozen women in St James's Park, not three.

A sparkling orchestration

EVEN AT the very end, suspended between pain and opiate euphoria, Duke Ellington was still capable of a surreal musical poetry. Propped up in bed in New York's Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, he demanded "Kisses, kisses... more kisses" from his sister Ruth, the last woman with him before he "took flight". And whereas his friend and collaborator Billy Strayhorn, already gone seven years when Duke died in 1974, had marked his own decline and imminent passing with the achingly elegiac "Blood Count", Ellington scribbled out blunt haiku about disease on hospital notepaper: "Voices – Lynpi. Braun – Exploration. Austin – Lung Penetration. King – Lung Penetration. Rielly –



THURSDAY BOOK

A PORTRAIT OF DUKE ELLINGTON: REMINISCING IN TEMPO
BY STUART NICHOLSON, SIDGWICK & JACKSON, £20

Barlum... Cob treat. Nurses off. Tumour stop shrinking. Hiccoughs. Cough. Hyman: Outlook. Blood in urine. Susceptibility. No fertility. Disease to everything...

How do the diagnostics run, how were the specialists assigned, in Duke's earlier years? Blanton and Carney – foundations; Hodges – lyrical beauty; Gonsalves – improvisational frenzy; Greer – steady march of time



Duke Ellington gets a warm welcome at St Pancras station, London

THURSDAY POEM

NORTH
BY NICK DRAKE

The article on tectonics proposed an original green world where oranges ripened in the Arctic's sunny fields.

If you believe the evidence – the fossils of sunflowers shading reclining mammoth bones – paradise was everywhere.

Lying here side by side, where in the world are we? Snake shadows on the bed, mad game shows on late-night TV,

and London like a juggernaut, its lights a cargo of oranges driving north across the night's deep-frozen lake, a new ice age.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Nick Drake's first collection, *The Man in the White Suit* (Bloodaxe, £6.95)

and memory; Strayhorn – yin side. The susceptibility had always been there, to women most obviously, but also to the music he had described in an underrated and surprisingly honest autobiography as his "mistress". Ellington is a more opaque figure even than Stuart Nicholson's earlier subject, Billie Holiday, not because his official memoir was so blatantly ghosted and fictionalised but because he had taken such pains over so many years to control the flow of gossip, to shape an image of unruffled urbanity. Not even Frank Sinatra had such a virtuoso grasp of press management, though to be fair the press always recognised that Sinatra was likelier to yield up spicier copy.

Edward Kennedy Ellington was born 100 years ago today, on 29 April 1899. Recent studies, not least David Hajdu's biography of his collaborator Billy Strayhorn, were intended to sound a cautiously sceptical note, suggesting that the Ellington canon was the work of many hands and voices, a collegiate process rather than an example of inspired auterism. The roles of individual interpreters were always crucial, but one measure of Ellington's gifts was his instinct for key recruitment.

Jimmy Blanton, the bassist, and Harry Carney, the baritone saxophonist, gave the classic bands of the Forties their deeply rooted sound. Johnny Hodges took the slightly raw, uncertainly pitched jazz saxophone to new heights of technical perfection and expressive beauty. Strayhorn tempered Duke's long-form obsessions

with perfect song structures, while at Newport in 1956, back to back with Strayhorn's "Newport Festival Suite", Paul Gonsalves blew 27 choruses on the little-used "Diminuendo and Crescendo in Blue", demonstrating that jazz could still match the excitement of the new rock'n'roll.

Centenary celebrations have confirmed a subtle shift of emphasis back towards Ellington's individual genius. Nicholson's book is not a musical study, but an effort to get close to a well-defended and somewhat mythologised personality. It is an oral biography, patiently weaving together published sources, public documents such as newspaper articles and reviews, and newly recorded interviews, to create a compulsively readable and well-rounded "portrait" – which is not the same as analytical biography – of an artist who increasingly seems to sit at the very centre of 20th-century musical history.

A quarter of a century ago, colonels in East Grinstead and Cheltenham ladies in twinsets and pearls bristled with outrage when Ellington was Radio 3's Composer of the Week. The same accolade now ruffles no feathers but, while the musical argument has seemed to be won, Ellington himself has remained fugitive until now. Nicholson chooses his sources with care, annotates sensibly, and properly relies on authoritative voices such as the drummer Sonny Greer, who not only kept time for the early band but also became its unofficial historian. Ellington was elegant, priapic, fiercely intelligent, shrewd and naïve by turns, possessed of a sensibility that marked a sea change in musical language – a vast, oceanic storehouse of ideas that makes the frantic hard-scrabble of bebop seem like a private code. Nicholson has orchestrated the elements of the life and the voices that bear witness to them with a skill worthy of Ellington himself.

BRIAN MORTON

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Arthur Boyd

THE DEATH of Arthur Boyd in Melbourne, Australia, in his 79th year is a great loss to Australian painting and a special sadness for those who have some knowledge of the richness and diversity of Australian painting in this century and have witnessed, if only at the irregular intervals of his London shows, the tremendous contribution to that richness made by Boyd during the past five decades.

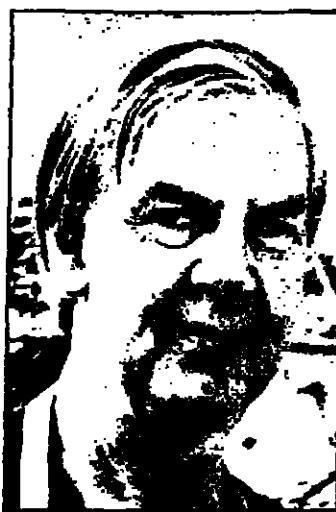
Boyd was born with an imaginative conscience that was first galvanised into life by the mass slaughter and sheer evil of the Second World War. His early work in the late Thirties when he was only in his late teens, and in the early war years, consisted of fulsomely painted canvases showing densely packed crowds of people with mostly wretched expressions on their faces, often with biblical or legendary titles and connotations. There were also some strongly felt and expressed landscape paintings.

Later, came some hauntingly lovely paintings of Adam and Eve, set in a lushly Australian Garden of Eden, but even this homely paradise had dark shadows; one version shows a rapacious-faced, vindictive male figure in scarlet robes spying triumphantly on the lovers: *Peeping Tom*. Rubens, Bosch, Bruegel and Cranach were among Boyd's lodestars, seen mainly through reproductions.

The need to translate visual and emotional experience in Australia into myth was shared by at least one other painter, also from Melbourne: Sidney Nolan, who explored Australian history - the outlaw Ned Kelly, the explorers Burke and Wills, and other themes - in visual terms of myth or legend with great *ecclat*. In Boyd's own early years, given his background of an unselfconsciously religious family, he turned mainly to the Bible for inspiration and he fused, with comparable brio, themes and situations from the Bible with a personal vision of war and present-day suffering.

Boyd's family was not only religious; he was surrounded by art and every kind of culture, for the Boyds, for several generations, have all been painters or potters, and the family included at least one writer and a distinguished architect.

Boyd was born in Murrumbidgee, Victoria, and his home, Open Country, was full of paintings, hand-thrown pots and ceramic sculptures of every description. His grandfather Arthur Merric Boyd and his grandmother, born Emma & Beckett, lived nearby, and were established painters. His father, William Merric, was a pot-



His paintings were unlike anything London had ever seen - a Faulknerian darkness and intensity

ter and his mother, Doris, an artist. Arthur was the second of five children: his elder sister, Lucy, and his two brothers, Guy and David, and one younger sister, Mary, were all painters or potters. Family life for Arthur was extremely important, not only for its creativity and as a sympathetic and supportive environment but also because of the continual flow and exchange of ideas and knowledge. Artists and writers passed continually through the family home.

The 1939-45 war made its presence felt in Melbourne not only through blackouts, ships and servicemen but also through a number of Australian exiles. The young Boyd read Dostoevsky and Kafka and loved, mainly through reproductions, the paintings of Rembrandt, Rubens and Bruegel.

Apart from his early and dramatic figure paintings and crowd scenes, Boyd's landscapes were from the beginning alive with human presence: landscapes that had been lived in and witnessed violence and endurance. This may have been partly a desire to humanise the beautiful but often harsh, empty and intractable Australian bush, so that it became the equivalent of those humanised, peopled, landscapes always to be found, so affectionately registered in the

backgrounds of Florentine, Venetian and Sienese painting.

When Boyd arrived in London in 1968, he spent days on end in the National Gallery, entranced by the paintings of Poussin, Veronese, Tintoretto and Rubens and the key works of the Venetian, Sienese and Florentine painters. A little later, in Venice, the discovery of Giorgione and, above all, Tintoretto, were profound experiences.

At the National Gallery, Boyd was enchanted by the mysterious *Mythological Subject* by Piero di Cosimo, in which what appears to be a dying nymph dressed in a flowing white garment is watched by a satyr and a melancholic seated dog; in the background is an estuary landscape with sparse trees and plants and some isolated birds. Boyd used this despondent dog as a repeated motif in sequences of turbulent and tragic paintings made in the early Sixties. One of the earliest and best of these paintings was bought from his Whitechapel retrospective in 1963 by John Sainsbury, our future benefactor for the National Gallery's new wing.

Arthur Boyd's retrospective exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1962 caused as much of a sensation as his younger friend Sidney Nolan's show back in 1957 at the same gallery. In the late Fifties and through much of the Sixties, when so many good Australian artists were living and working in London, Australian painting was a fresh factor in our awareness of contemporary art. Russell Drysdale had exhibited memorable paintings of the Outback in the early Fifties at the Leicester Galleries, with great success; and Nolan's spectacular Whitechapel exhibition had been preceded by a sell-out show at the Redfern Gallery in 1953 of raw, red paintings of Australia's arid Central Interior: vividly uncompromising pictures to match an awesome place. Kenneth Clark, Nolan's earliest European supporter, bought one of these Outback paintings, which later found its way into the Tate Gallery collection.

The Nolan 1957 retrospective at Whitechapel was followed, at the same gallery, by a full-scale survey of the livelier elements in Australian painting in 1961, to offset a more conservative Tate Gallery survey, and then Boyd's retrospective followed. Australian art at this time not only aroused the attention of a good many distinguished collectors, there was an unprecedented amount of space devoted to it in the popular press and on television and radio - only to give place gradually to the emerging excitement of American art. Some aspects of Boyd's painting could be said



Persecuted Lovers by Boyd, 1957-58. From Ursula Hoff, *The Art of Arthur Boyd* (André Deutsch, 1986)

to have been marginally affected by American art, notably Abstract Expressionism, but Boyd's allegiances were as direct to European art as his roots were in the splendid Australian impressionism and *plein-air* painting of the Heidelberg painters who had worked near his birthplace. The greatness of Australian painting in the 19th century, as we see it in the work of Fred McCubbin, Arthur Streeton, Tom Roberts, Charles Conder and a handful of other exceptionally gifted painters working before and just after 1900, is still not known in England (and the same is true, of course, of our ignorance of American painting before 1945).

Boyd's London retrospective showed clearly a progression from the more lightly, if often quite sensuously painted works of the earlier period in Australia to a more direct, expressionist mode of painting, which his experience of Europe seemed to require. His preparations for the exhibition were devastating: Boyd proved to be an astonishingly hard worker, capable of producing perhaps a dozen paintings of exceptional quality in about 10 days. His output was prodigious all through his life, ranging from drawing to painting, to print-making and ceramics, often on a vast scale and including

at least one ceramic mural. This output was uneven but essentially there were always works of high quality.

During his time in England, Boyd designed a notably brilliant set and costumes for Stravinsky's *Renard*, choreographed by Western Theatre Ballet, first seen at the Edinburgh Festival in 1961 and then at Sadler's Wells. In 1963, he designed very strong scarlet, black and white sets and costumes for Robert Helpmann's somewhat over-powerful ballet *Electra* for the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden, using Malcolm Arnold's music.

His retrospective was preceded by a formidable exhibition at the Zwemmer Gallery in Charing Cross Road, London - in the premises now occupied by the Oxford University Press - under the distinguished direction of Michael Chase. The show was remarkable because the paintings were immensely tough in figuration and structure and dark in mood. This was the first disclosure of his cycle of paintings devoted to the theme of the aboriginal and his bride, in flight from persecution or oppression or from the squalid ravages of urban living, in the bush, making love, floating in streams, crossing rivers, sleeping under the stars.

The paintings were unlike any-

thing London had ever seen, a Faulknerian darkness and intensity, like scenes from *Light in August*.

After seven or eight years living in London in Highgate, and exploring art and landscape in Europe - he refused all his life to fly in planes, travelling by ship and train to and from Australia - Boyd returned to Australia, but eventually settled for a working life shared between a home in Suffolk and a new home in Australia, at Bundanon, New South Wales, by the Shoalhaven river, a place which he was to make famous through a beautiful and intensely poetic sequence of light-infused paintings over many years. This site by the river with rocks, trees and flashing light on water became very dear to Boyd's heart and eventually he presented the place, a very considerable property, to the Australian government, as a centre for artists and conservationists.

In 1993, Barry Pearce organised at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney the second and most sizeable and complete retrospective of Boyd's work, to great national acclaim and to the great pleasure of the artist.

Arthur Boyd was a modest, self-effacing and very quiet man, slender, with sparkling and shrewd eyes

and a shock of hair like a schoolboy's, kind, gentle, friendly, often grinning at life's absurdities, and although inarticulate to the point of speechlessness could be dryly comic on occasion. His friend and, unexpectedly, future brother-in-law Sidney Nolan was far more worldly and sophisticated, a born charmer in fact.

Back in the Sixties, in some late-night debauch of talk and drinking at the artist Charles Blackman's house, also in Highgate and in the inevitable presence of the very young Barry Humphries, Al Alvarez, Tom Rosenthal and Brian O'Shaughnessy, all Boyd aficionados, I remember Sid Nolan delicately delivering some breathtaking lesson in one-upmanship and worldly sleight-of-hand and, after a long, dumb-struck silence from everyone, Boyd saying with a soft-voiced but smiling humility which we couldn't tell if mock or not: "Thank you for being my friend."

BRYAN ROBERTSON

Arthur Merric Bloomfield Boyd, artist: born Murrumbidgee, Victoria 24 July 1920; OBE 1970; AO 1979, AC 1992; married 1945 Yvonne Harland Lennie (one son, two daughters); died Melbourne, Victoria 24 April 1999.



Troutman: 'It's the black experience, the blues of the Eighties'

Roger Troutman

ZAPP WAS one of a myriad acts who took up the funk of James Brown and George Clinton and turned it into the sophisticated R&B which dominated US urban radio stations in the Eighties. Zapp's lead singer and instrumentalist Roger Troutman was found shot dead on Sunday, apparently by his older brother Larry, who subsequently committed suicide.

With Roger Troutman at the helm, Zapp developed enough of a cult following in the UK to sell out the Hammersmith Odeon and score two Top 75 hits in 1986. Their anthem "More Bounce to the Ounce" has cropped up on rap records by the likes of Ice Cube, Snoop Doggy Dogg and EPMD, and Troutman himself had most recently featured on the infectious hit "California Love", which made the Top Ten on both sides of the Atlantic in 1996 and was nominated for a Grammy award.

Zapp evolved out of the Troutmans, a family group comprising the versatile Roger (on vocals and guitar) and his brothers Larry (congas, percussion), Lester (drums) and Terry (bass, keyboards). Terry was nicknamed "Zapp" because, as a baby, he couldn't pronounce the name of Eliza Sapp (the principal at his brothers' elementary school).

Originally from Hamilton, a small Ohio town halfway between Dayton

and Cincinnati, the Troutman family were heavily influenced by the Ohio Players (local heroes based in Dayton) and the bass-player Bootsy Collins, who lived in Cincinnati. Bootsy Collins took the Troutmans under his wing, introducing them to the Parliament and Funkadelic leader George Clinton, and helping them to secure a recording deal with Warner Brothers.

In 1980, "More Bounce to the Ounce", Zapp's debut single, included on their eponymous first album, proved an instant smash. The thumpy bass, the choppy rhythm guitars and Roger Troutman's unlikely use of a talk-box made this slice of funk irresistible and it reached No 2 on the R&B charts. Since then, it has become arguably one of the most sampled tracks of all time.

The following year, Troutman struck out on his own, recording as Roger, with a solo album entitled *The Many Facets of Roger* and a high-tech up-tempo remake of Marvin Gaye's "I Heard It Through the Grapevine". The song had also been a hit for Gladys Knight and the Pips and Creedence Clearwater Revival but Troutman was adamant he could update it. He spent hours building the track, once again using the Vocoder to great effect. Troutman had noticed Stevie Wonder and

Peter Frampton employing this strange device in the mid-Seventies.

"People seemed to like the voice box but they couldn't always understand what I was saying," Troutman remembered. "So I said to myself the best way to prove this works is to take a song everybody knows and do a remake. If they think they can't understand the words through the voice box, they'll know the words because the other versions have already planted those lyrics in the listener's mind."

The single topped the R&B charts for two weeks in November 1981. "I've never experienced any feeling like having a No 1 record. It's the ultimate in acceptance and it was amazing," Troutman said.

The following year, Zapp released the album *Zapp II*, featuring the maddeningly catchy "Dance Floor (Part 1)", which gave them another No 1 R&B hit. "It was so unorthodox, such a bizarre, insane way of making a record," Troutman said. "I never knew exactly what I was going to do next. The only thing I was sure about was that I wanted to call the song 'Dance Floor' because I was imagining a guy at the discotheque who's a bit bashful."

In 1983 the album *Zapp III* and the single "I Can Make You Dance" confirmed Zapp's status as potential

rivals to the Gap Band, Kool and the Gang and the Dazz Band. Roger Troutman kept busy producing the group Human Body, the former Zapp singer Bobby Glover and the vocalist Shirley Murdock, who joined Zapp on the album *The New Zapp IV*. The group's hard-edged sound became even more sophisticated as the synthesiser-heavy single "Computer Love" pointed soul towards the future while "It Doesn't Really Matter" looked back to their funk roots.

"It's the black experience, it's the blues of the Eighties," Troutman said at the time about Zapp's distinctive brand of funk. "It has the same purpose with black people as blues had for black people when B.B. King started out, or Jimmy Reed."

Following the Top Ten success of "Computer Love", Troutman reverted to his solo persona for "I Want To Be Your Man", a 1987 ballad inspired by relationships. This time, Troutman used a slightly different approach. "It was a mixture of my human voice and the voice box," he explained. "I have a keen understanding of harmony and music and I have a very good understanding of layering. It would always take a long time to record because, with the voice box, I could only play one note at a time."

In fact, unsure of the result, the musician wanted "I Want To Be Your Man" to remain an album track. The Warner president Lenny Waronker changed Troutman's mind. Troutman related that "He called and said, 'This song is so great... We want you to leave Warner Brothers and put you over on Reprise.' Lenny wanted to launch the record in a big way. I have to say it was a great success. It was No 1 black and No 3 pop." This crossover success meant Troutman could even sing the song at a rodeo in Texas and do a six-night run of shows at Disneyland.

But after Zapp V, the group lost momentum and toured only sporadically. A compilation entitled *Zapp & Roger: all the greatest hits*, issued in 1993, featured several remixes and a rather ghastly "mega-medley". In 1996, Troutman appeared with the dance act One Tribe on "High as a Kite (FFRR)" and rappers The Click on "Scandalous (Live)". He issued the odd solo album (*The Saga Continues*) and ran Troutman Enterprises, and was working in his Dayton studio when he was killed.

PIERRE PERRONE

Roger Troutman, singer, songwriter, instrumentalist and producer: born Hamilton, Ohio 1941; died Dayton, Ohio 25 April 1999.

Henrietta Branford

HENRIETTA BRANFORD'S death represents a particularly cruel loss in this National Year of Reading. She was one of the bright new stars of contemporary children's literature and almost every one of her more recent titles either won a prize or was up there on the shortlist. Her writing career - which began only when she was 40 - seemed set fair for many more successes in the years to come.

Born in India in 1946, the daughter of an army officer, Branford first moved to Jordan and then settled with her parents and grandfather in a remote part of the New Forest. There she learned to ride as well as experiencing "gun dogs, blood

sports and a selection of extremely good old books. My father taught me a great deal about animals from a shooting and fishing perspective. It was a wonderfully accurate and unsentimental way to learn." Although she was later to become what she described as a "born-again vegetarian", an element of this former toughness was never far away from her stories, giving them a hard edge not always found in literary descriptions of wildlife, especially those aimed at children.

Initially working as a community youth worker, Branford settled down with the photographer Paul Carter and had three children, Jack,

Rose and Polly. She quickly became involved in local affairs in her home town of Southampton, in particular as a governor of her neighbouring comprehensive school. Once her children were past infancy she started writing, through a column in her local newspaper.

Her first great literary success, *Dimanche Diller* (1994), won the Smarties Book Prize for the 6-8 category. It describes the Roald-Dallesque adventures of a much-punished orphan at the hands of an unscrupulous bogus aunt named Valburga Vilemle, given to statements like "What children want is squashing down! What children

want is flattening out!" This good-humoured melodrama spawned two sequels, where the tough but saintly Dimanche unwillingly flirts with more danger from outside adult villains. In a complete change of mood, *Spaceboy* (1996) is a lively science-fiction story involving a genius infant out to save the world from its impending loss of gravity.

In 1997 Branford wrote *The Fated Sky*, her first book for older children. Set in Iceland, this Viking saga was peopled by characters who were also recognisably modern in their emotions and attitudes. Vivid and at times violent, the story took the children's historical novel on from the

more self-consciously literary model laid down by Rosemary Sutcliff.

Even more successful was *Fire, Bed and Bone*, the deserved winner of the 1998 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. Written as if by an old hunting dog, with the author drawing heavily on her own childhood experiences, this is a compelling and deeply felt story about the injustices that led to the 14th-century Peasants' Revolt.

Earthy, plain-spoken and unflinching, it breathed new life into the talking animal story, as did her next novel *White Wolf* (1998), set in Canada and dedicated to the wolves that still remain there. It contains scenes

that can stand comparison with Kipling, one of her childhood favourites, as well as with Jack London.

Two more books were written, and are still to be published. But the breast cancer Henrietta Branford had been suffering from took a more deadly grip. Working from home, where her desk overlooked her urban wildlife garden, she continued to defy the illness she raged against until the very last. A lifelong socialist and activist, she leaves behind a fine legacy of work that would surely have gone to even greater strengths had the fates been kinder.

NICHOLAS TUCKER



Branford: like Kipling

Henrietta Diana Primrose Longstaff Branford, writer: born 12 January 1946; married Paul Carter (one son, two daughters); died Southampton, Hampshire 23 April 1999.

الصحف

Al Hirt

JAZZ PURISTS tend to scorn success and although the trumpeter Al Hirt came from New Orleans, the very cradle of jazz, his world-wide acclaim placed him outside the pale as far as most critics were concerned.

The son of a New Orleans policeman, Hirt was born in the Crescent City in 1922. He was six years old when his parents bought him his first trumpet at a local pawn shop. At high school he studied classical music before entering the Cincinnati Conservatory in 1940.

He spent his Second World War army service as a bugler and on his discharge worked with the big bands of Benny Goodman, the Dorsey Brothers and Ray McKinley. In 1950 he won second place in Horace Heidt's National Youth Opportunity Contest and became solo trumpet in Heidt's own band for a time.

In the 1950s, he returned to New Orleans, working by day as a pest exterminator, then leading his own band in the evenings at local jazz venues. One of his rat-poisoning colleagues was the clarinetist Pete Fountain and a lifelong friendship developed. The two would share responsibility for fronting the group, as Fountain explained: "Whoever had the bow tie got to lead the band. There was never any jealousy."

Hirt made his first recordings as a bandleader for the small Southland label in 1955 but three years later was signed up by the Audio Fidelity company, which specialised in producing technically perfect albums with a broad musical appeal. The coverage of these releases in hi-fi magazines with worldwide circulation did a great deal to boost Hirt's career and by 1960 he had been snapped up by the prestigious RCA Victor organisation.

Hirt's first album under his new contract, *He's the King* (1961), was soon followed by *Al Hirt - Greatest Horn in the World*, *Horn A-Plenty* and *Al Hirt at the Mardi Gras* and then, in 1963, his first million-selling LP *Honey in the Horn*. He also had a gold disc award in 1964 for his popular single "Java".

In 1961 Hirt had opened his own club on Bourbon Street called simply "Al Hirt". It became one of the most popular music locations in New Orleans. The Duke Ellington Orchestra played two residencies there in 1970, at the first of which Ellington premiered, in "workshop" form, his *New Orleans Suite* commissioned by the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. Hirt played at the festival alongside other New Orleans notables, his music contrasting with the playing of such traditional units as the Onward Brass Band.

At that time, Hirt's own group contained the pianist Ellis Marsalis, father of the trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, who was destined to take the jazz world by storm a decade later. For Hirt, the



Hirt: 'The Monster' or 'The Round Mound of Sound'

David Redfern

1960s seemed to consist of a series of memorable career peaks. He played for John F. Kennedy's inauguration as US President, was the star attraction at Carnegie Hall in New York and headlined many television variety shows.

He also worked on a number of films, appearing in some as well as providing the music. His band appeared in a New Orleans sequence in the 1961 film *Il Mondo Di Notte* *Numero Due* ("World

weighed around 20 stone. He was full bearded and on the bandstand his big trumpet looked like a toy instrument in his big hands. His style was dynamic and explosive; one associate described it as "blowing down the throat of a hurricane".

In the late 1960s, he suffered a temporary setback when his lip was injured while he was taking part in a New Orleans street parade, but he came back to form when the injury healed. He was

duce a regular stream of albums, over 50 in all. He also achieved 21 Grammy nominations during his half-century career. He explained his success with disarmingly simplicity: "I'm a pop commercial musician, and I've got a successful formula. If you have the ability to perform your musical idea, you become a good jazz player. Any performer can think of a musical idea. Only a well-schooled artist can produce the idea on his horn."

New Orleans played a major part in Hirt's life and he tried to arrange his career into short tours in order to stay at home as frequently as he could, to be near his wife and six children. He was a keen angler and knew the best fishing grounds for sea trout.

Hirt's health began to deteriorate a year ago. George Stegman, a friend and associate, explained that Hirt "was ageing and things were starting to fall apart". Pete Fountain said: "There will never be another like him; he was loved by trumpet players all over the world."

ALVIN MORGAN

Alois Maxwell Hirt, trumpeter, bandleader and club owner: born New Orleans 7 November 1922; twice married (one son, five daughters); died New Orleans 27 April 1999.

His style was dynamic and explosive; one associate described it as 'blowing down the throat of a hurricane'

By Night No 2") and *Rome Adventure* (1962). He was involved with four films in 1969, *Un Homme Qui Me Plait* (one sequence was set in his club), *The Man Hunter*, *Viva Max* and the Charlton Heston film *Number One*, in which he was seen in a night-club sequence.

Hirt was affectionately known as "The Monster" or "The Round Mound of Sound", on account of his stature and weight; he stood six feet two inches and

immensely popular with audiences and musicians alike and was indeed, at one time, the best-known trumpet player in the United States. In 1987 he was proud to be chosen to play the solo on Handel's *Ave Maria* for Pope John Paul II during the pontiff's visit to New Orleans.

In 1983 Hirt closed his Bourbon Street club after 23 years because, he said, "the area has become too dangerous and dirty", but he continued to pro-

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

STALLYBRASS: Margaret Rosa Margo, nee Bigland, on 29 April, peacefully, in her 87th year, at King's College Hospital, beloved wife of Bill, mother of Andrew and Peter, mother-in-law of Elaine and Annie. Family cremation at 11am, Saturday 1 May, at West Norwood Crematorium. Memorial service same day at 3pm at All Saints' Church, Rosendale Road, West Dulwich. Flowers to James W. Constable Funeral Directors, 55 Honor Oak Park, Forest Hill, London SE23 1EA, telephone 0181-291 0811.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam), telephone 0171-293 2012 or fax 0171-293 2016; notices are charged at £5.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Frank Auerbach, painter, 68; Baroness Chalker of Walsley, 57; Mr Paul Clarke MP, 42; Mr Tom Clarke, Editor, *Sporting Life*, 60; Mr Daniel Day-Lewis, actor, 42; Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, 65; Mrs J. S. 56; Mrs Ruth Deech, Principal, St Anne's College, Oxford, 58; General Sir Peter de la Billière, 65; Miss Anita Dobson, actress, 50; Mr Lonnie Donegan, skiffle musician, 68; Mr Israel Finesels QC, former President, Board of Deputies of British Jews, 78; Dame Rennie Fritchie, former health authority chairman, 57; Mr Deryck Gwyler, actor and comedian, 35; Sir Patrick Hamill, former Chief Constable, Strathclyde, 69; Miss Celeste Holm, actress, 80; Mr Saddam Hussein al-Takriti, president and prime minister of Iraq, 62; Mlle Zizi Jeanmaire, dancer, 75; Professor David Johns, Vice-Chancellor, Bradford University, 68; Sir Anthony Laughton, oceanographer, 72; Mr Rod McKuen, composer and poet, 66; Mr Zubin Mehta, conductor, 63; Sir Fraser Noble, Principal

Emeritus, Aberdeen University, 81; Sir Ronald Norman, chairman, Student Loans Company, 62; General Sir Patrick Palmer, Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, 66; Lord Rothschild, financier, 63; Mr Harold Shapiro, composer, 79; Mr David Smallman, Governor of St Helena, 50; Mr Jeremy Thorpe, former MP, 70; Mr Alfred Valentine, former West Indies cricketer, 69; Mr Nigel Williams, former ambassador to the United Nations, 62; Professor Heinz Wolff, bioengineer, 71; Sir Peter Youens, former colonial administrator, 33.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: William Randolph Hearst, newspaper proprietor, 1863; Sir Thomas Beecham, conductor, 1879; Sir Malcolm Sargent, conductor, 1885; Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, jazz composer and bandleader, 1899. Deaths: John Cheever, poet, 1968; Wallace Carothers, chemist and developer of nylon, 1937; Sir Alfred Joseph Hitchcock, film director, 1900. On this day: Captain Cook landed at Kurell, Bolany Bay,

Australia, 1770; at Oxford University a statute was passed, admitting women to examinations. 1884; the *Dublin Post* Office was burnt by Sinn Féin rebels. 1918. Today is the Feast Day of St Catherine of Siena, St Hugh of Cluny, St Joseph Costello, St Robert of Molesmes and St Wilfrid the Younger.

LUNCHEONS

HM Government: Mr George Robertson MP, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday by HM Government at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of Mr John Moore MP, Minister of Defence of Australia.

DINNERS

The Speaker: Miss Betty Boothroyd, The Speaker of the House of Commons, held a dinner yesterday evening in Speaker's House, London SW1, in honour of Mr Ivar Hansen, Speaker of the Folketing (Danish parliament). Mr Ole Poulsen, the Danish Ambassador, was also present.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attend a Service of the Royal Victorian Order in St George's Chapel, Windsor, and give a reception in the State Apartments, Windsor Castle, for members of the Order and Medalists. The Prince of Wales visits Sherborne School for Girls, Dorset. The Duke of York, President, attends a reception for the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions at the National History Museum, London SW7.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. Nineteen Company Grenadier Guards mount the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

LECTURES

Tate Gallery: Edwin Aitken, "On the Wild Side: the work of Kirchner and Schmidt-Rottluff", 1pm. National Portrait Gallery: Juliet Hacking, "The Portrait Photography of David Wilkie Wynfield", 1.10pm.

POKER DAVID SPANIER

TEACHING NEW players to play poker is a tricky business. The other night I was invited to a game specially organised to give four or five guys some idea about Hold 'em, before going over to Vegas for the World Series. The know-how was supposed to come from some experienced players, who had themselves competed in the World Championship.

It did not work out like that. True, the newcomers, who had all played down-home, kitchen-table-type poker before, knew next to nothing about Texas Hold 'em. If they saw a high card or made a pair, they reckoned it was the goods. They called everything.

The stakes seemed low: blinds of £1, £2, and £3. But with everyone having a few hundred on the table, the pots rapidly escalated. The result was that one of the experts, who was supposed to be showing the new boys what to do, lost an even £1,000 on the night. Everything he tried went wrong. It was not a question of making "fancy" plays. Just whammo!

It would have been better,

from the point of view of learning the game, to play limit raises, as they do in virtually all the cash games in Vegas casinos. The idea would be to fix the betting at, say, £10 before the flop and £20 after. That way no one gets too badly hurt even if there is a raise at every step. And the newcomers would have learned something useful.

Of course, pot limit, British-style, is more exciting. A good pot can make or break your whole night. But the limit game is, in practice, extremely subtle. The American pros routinely play seven-card stud or Hold 'em for \$400-\$800 raises. That hurts enough for anyone.

If you want to learn Hold 'em without tears, I recommend beginners' night on Sundays at the Stakis Regency in Russell Square, London WC1. The indefatigable Roy Houghton gives lessons to new players before organising a £5 entry game, so players can get a taste. Good clean fun and no risk. Alternatively, go to Vegas and stick your money down. You may be surprised how popular you are.

Court's power to correct error in writ

THE COURT had power under the inherent jurisdiction to order that a writ which, owing to an error on the part of a court official, had not been issued on the correct date should be deemed to have been issued on the correct date.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of Ursula Riniker against the refusal of her application that the date on a writ issued by her be changed. The plaintiff wished to commence proceedings claiming damages against the defendant. She was aware that the limitation period for some of her claims might expire on 5 August 1998 and was concerned to issue proceedings before that date as a holding measure. She drafted her claim herself and attended at the writ office, where she was told that it was in suitable terms to be endorsed on a writ. She therefore posted a draft writ with the appropriate fee to the Action Department, which received it on 28 July 1998. In her letter she asked that the writ be issued immediately on the day of receipt.

The draft endorsement ran to 11.2 pages of typescript, and the clerk in the writ section thought that it was intended to be or should be regarded as the Statement of Claim. The draft writ and cheque were returned to the plaintiff, with the comment, "Your writ must be headed up Statement of Claim." The plaintiff did not receive them until 9 August.

The next day she returned the writ, explaining the error and asking that it be issued immediately.

THURSDAY LAW REPORT

29 APRIL 1999

Riniker v University College London
Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Schiemann and Lord Justice Clarke)
31 March 1999

mediately with the date of issue 28 July 1998, i.e. the day the department had first received it. The writ was issued with the date 14 August. The plaintiff complained, but the senior master felt unable to change the issue date. The plaintiff's application for an order of the court enabling the writ to be treated as if it had been issued on the earlier date was refused, the judge holding that he was bound by the decision in *Harrison v Touche Ross* (Times, 14 February 1995). The plaintiff appeared in person. *Paul Epstein (Wildie Solicitors) for the defendant.*

Lord Justice Evans said that in the present case, the draft writ had been in custody of a proper officer of the court on 28 July and it was now accepted that the endorsement was in proper form. In those circumstances, the issue of the writ could not be refused, and the writ would and should have been issued then. The failure to do so was entirely the responsibility of the official in the Action Department.

However, there was no reason why the plaintiff should be punished for the error of an officer of the court. Accordingly, the writ, although issued and dated 14 August, should be deemed for all purposes to have been issued on 28 July 1998.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

WORDS CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

square, n. and adj.

a square is - it's just that nobody wants to be one. From the Latin *quadratus*, it has turned many a circle. Duke's sense re-emerged in the

possibility of the official in the Action Department.

The court did have power to make the kind of direction sought by the plaintiff. That power should be ascribed to the inherent jurisdiction of the court rather than to the specific authority given by Order 2 rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. Although the closing words of Order 2 rule 1(2) were wide enough to give that power unless rule 1(1) were interpreted narrowly as applying only to failures by the parties and not by the court.

In that case, however, the possibility of error for which the court was responsible was left to its inherent jurisdiction to remedy. The inherent jurisdiction was reflected in the pre-1965 practice described by Stamp J in *Re N (infants)* (1967) 1 All ER 161, and it continued, in suitably limited circumstances, today.

It had been submitted for the defendant that, if the court had jurisdiction to make an order in the plaintiff's favour, it should not exercise that power, since she had delayed issuing proceedings until the very end of the six-year period, of which she was well aware. She had taken the risk by using the postal procedure, that something might go wrong.

However, there was no reason why the plaintiff should be punished for the error of an officer of the court. Accordingly, the writ, although issued and dated 14 August, should be deemed for all purposes to have been issued on 28 July 1998.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

DUKE ELLINGTON, who would have been 100 today, fitted over a century's work into 75 years. A passion for wordplay animates "Elitopia" and "Clusterphobia" - and check out his preamble to *The Afro-Eurasian Eclipse*. Of his Shakespeare suite *Such Sweet Thunder*, he noted, "Nobody knows what

Forties, probably (not mentioned by the OED) from the conducting gesture for a regular four-beat rhythm - as in the old proverb about not being a man to break a square and Ben Jonson's "all their square pretext of gravity / A mere vain glory". Meanwhile, "Subtle Slough" should become the town's anthem.

The Thatcherite Party of Russia

Continued from page 1
to the British people. What sort of images was he receiving? "Oh, very positive," said Masslennikov. "George, Philanthropy, Sailors."

the noble and sensible Good With Children. She might have listened, if only these descriptive tribal names were a bit shorter and catchier, but unfortunately the Lakota had no concept of initials. It was to take the arrival of the white man to bring the acronym to America.

Despite its reputation as a veritable hotbed of acronymic coinage, in its first 200 years as a republic, the United States of America produced very little in the way of social acronyms, apart from VIP (Very important person). Even then people were suspicious of the idea and most refused to pronounce it as "Vip", preferring instead to enunciate each individual initial. Little changed until the early Sixties, when Wasp burst on to the scene to widespread acclaim.

So satisfied was the American public with this clever insect name for White Anglo-Saxon Protestants, that the demographers of the day seemed content to rest on their laurels. Wasp remained unchallenged until sometime in the mid-Eighties, when the term Yuppie first appeared.

Most of us think of Yippie (Young urban professional person in employment) as the first real social acronym. The term clearly owes little to its immediate predecessor, Wasp. Yippie is probably a direct descendant of "Yippie", referring to hippie activists of the Sixties, and coined from the initials of Abbie Hoffman's Youth International Party. Yippie itself seemed to be the etymological bastard child of Vip and jazz-age terms such as unkie, groupie and, of course, hippie. But wherever Yippie came from, it came to stay. Perhaps because of its young urban professionals-sounding Yippe represented something of a promotion, the term was happily adopted by those it was coined to ridicule. Dictionary editors, looking for ways to pad out their sparse "Y" sections, were quick to include Yippie, and, coincinco-like, this little wooden acronym became a real word.

From Yuppie came Buppie and Uppie (Black and Gay urban professional people in employment, respectively). It didn't take long for people to realise this would work with anyone or anything. Coming up with a local version - Chuppie, Uppie, Buppie, Nuppie, Shuppie - was a favourite joke among funny people until they all suddenly gave it up in favour of finding new M-words to replace the "menstrual" in PMT, coining hilarities

Some bright spark – rumour has it the same man who invented “brunch” – had come up with Dink. “Double income, no kids”, a pretty piece of shorthand to describe a specific sort of yuppie household. Dinkie inevitably evolved from Dink, but it soon came to be spelt Dinky (Double income, no kids yet). Clearly some thought was going into this. After Dinks there came Dimps (Dual income, money problems) Oinks, (One income, no kids), Lips (Low income, parents supporting), Timats (Treble income ménage à trois), Sinco (Single income, nine cats) and many other neologisms.

ma Aquil we have had to vote.
 An acronym strand of economy thinking was running parallel to this profligate coinage of socio-economic résumé, one whose roots lay in the spz word Nimby; say, Nimby (Not in my back yard), has been around for a while, giving rise to the noun Nimbyism, used to describe the type of selfish, back-yard thinking that has delayed the construction of so many important toxic waste dumps. Further development in this area has been slow in coming, with little variation beyond Nimby (Not in my front yard, and Nimby (Not in my side yard), both of which encapsulate a similar political sentiment. Oimby (Only in my back yard) represents a possible antithesis, but for the time being it remains an acronym in search of a constituency.

However, there is still considerable potential for acronyms derived from the sort of crazy things people say. How many of us have been threatened by an atmosphere of Waylayism (from What are you looking at you?), or harried by the current climate of Dyadicism (Do you have a downward card?) which prevails in our supermarkets? We should not expect immediate results. These sorts of acronyms are by their nature much harder work, and the chances of hitting on the name of a famous sailor are at best slim. For now we must be content with more complex variations on Yippee, such as Frumpies (Formerly radical upwardly mobile person), Buffles (Heavy users of fast food), and pointless initialisations of common expressions (eg Motocross for Man on the Clapham omnibus) until someone, somewhere, stumbles across the next Sinbad. We must, at the very least, keep going until we find a funny one.

Continued from page 1
to the British people. What sort of images was he receiving? "Oh, very positive," said Masslennikov. "Courage. Philanthropy. Sailors."
His telephatic contacts, Edward Masslennikov went on to explain, were not confined to Europe. "I have met extra-terrestrials," he told me, without a flicker of irony. I looked at his assistant, who carried on chipping away at a stone forehead with a chisel, as expressionless as his material.
"There are," Masslennikov added, "quite a few of them around. Not many people know this," he added. "I do."

His first encounter, the sculptor recalled, occurred when he was shopping with his wife in St Petersburg, in 1989. "A trolleybus came," he recalled, "we got on, and I noticed a man and a woman who were firing these sort of black needles from their eyes. I knew they were extra-terrestrials. Their skin was tanned; their eyes were grey."

"I realise now," he went on, "that they were installing a big programme in me." Some people might wonder if he had had too long a lunch that day. "Absolutely not," said Masslennikov, pointing out that a few years later, he was joined by two more aliens in the queue for the chair at his local barber's.

Edward Masslennikov has had many prophetic visions, he told me, but he cannot predict the future for the Russian Thatcherites. "But I can feel her - Margaret Thatcher," he told me, "right now, while I'm talking to you. She is beautiful. She is young." She is 73, I interrupted. "Trust me," Masslennikov replied, "she looks good kid."

"I can see her," he continued, "and I am tuning in to her through you. I can see her in this sort of film of cigarette smoke. She is standing there, behind you, watching us," he explained. "She is luminous."

His assistant had not stopped tapping away at his stone head. I looked at Yuri, waiting for his reaction. "Edward," said the Thatcherite party convenor, flinging his arms around the sculptor, "I have to embrace you now."

Curious though this last episode may seem, our recent encounters had been such that it was not entirely surprising that my trip should have ended with the Baroness's ectoplasm hovering a few feet away.

"Edward," Yuri Dorofev remarked, as we made our way out into the darkened streets. "is a genius." Even in Yuri, however, I sensed that this last meeting had inspired a degree of unease. Maybe he was going home by trolleybus. Or perhaps he was simply aware that — unforgettable though Maslennikov's ghostly vision had been — the Russian Thatcherites will have to acquire some more mundane political talents if the Iron Lady is to grace them with a second, more orthodox appearance.

Mail on Sunday Review

Paul's wife had just started to accept his transvestism when she died. Now he can dress 'en femme' as much as he wants – he simply can't give it up – but he wants to meet another woman. How does he broach the subject?

READERS' SUGGESTIONS

The request has always rather touched me, flattered me and even turned me on. Women just don't mind that kind of thing nearly as much as men think.

Why not? Is it because we're always looking for the feminine in men, and rather relieved when we find it, even when it's presented in such a bizarre way?

Certainly, I did nothing but roar with laughter and affection when my son, aged about four, would come tottering down the stairs with a friend, both dressed up in my clothes, hysterical with laughter, lipstick on their noses, cheeks, everywhere, tiny feet in huge high-heels. However, for some reason that I cannot rationalise, were I to have had a four-year-old daughter, and had she come downstairs wearing her father's *X-fronts* and suit and a painted-on beard, having stuffed a banana down her crotch, I would have freaked out.

However, women have a much easier time of it. We can wear sexy evening dresses when we want; we can strap ourselves in tight bras; we can put on trousers and be one of the boys when we want. We can wear make-up or not. We can have short hair, long hair, hair up, no hair, whatever. But men, no. It's trousers,

trousers, trousers all the time. Never any make-up. Only very long hair if you're quite brave or unemployed or incredibly successful or in certain professions, such as the music business. Never high heels, never being able to switch between hard and soft - having to be hard all the time. You may be a new man, and live in corduroys, but if you went to a party in a frock and lipper would you cause a stir? Yes.

Paul should relax. If he wants to go the whole hog and to go to TV parties and discuss his problems, he can ring the Beaumont Society (01582 412220). Otherwise he can just go it alone. When he meets a nice woman, he should start dropping hints: "I wish I could wear make-up." "I sometimes like to wear a caftan around the house because it's more comfortable." "I'm wearing tights under my trousers because I'm frozen but also because I love the feeling of them next to my skin."

If she's not completely clueless, she'll quickly catch on to what's up. And, with any luck, they'll soon be out at M&S choosing his undies.

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

Amazed and impressed
My first boyfriend was a transvestite. We'd been going out for several months before he plucked up courage to tell me. When he did finally appear before me in a dress, I was amazed — and very, very impressed.

Every fictional medium from comic strips to TV drama presents a woman discovering her man's transvestism as a shocking event for her. Well, it *isn't* necessarily so – for a woman who is eager to experiment, to discover new ways of making love, the revelation can come as a delightful surprise. And a woman who loves her man will only love him more for every side of his character he reveals to her.

I'm withholding my name and address because I respect my ex's right to privacy, not because I am in any way ashamed of him, or of myself or of the things we did.

It's no longer taboo
Why does your writer think it is such a terrible thing to wear women's clothes? It is no longer taboo for men to expose their feminine side; Jonathan Ross has been photographed wearing a Gaultier skirt, David Beckham wears a sarong and Eddie Izzard

dresses as his fancy takes him. Nobody regards them as perverts; in fact, nobody cares.

DR DAVID CRILLY
Cambridge

Don't conceal the true you
I can feel very much for Paul,
after the agony of learning to
accept myself as I am.

I often wonder about the situation in which Paul finds him-

self. What would I do if my wife were to die? I am strongly heterosexual (as most TVs are), and certainly couldn't exist by myself. If I were going to form a new relationship, which I would hope would become permanent, then I would have to be honest. Trying to cover up the true person in such a situation could be a recipe for disaster.

JANET (JAN)

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia,
My godmother, who I've always been close to, is wheelchair-bound at 80, but entirely composed mentis, and still lives at home. We visit as much as we can, but she gets lonely. However, her district nurse is very good and often takes her out at weekends, and even has her for Christmas, all entirely off her own bat, but, it turns out, at a price. My godmother has to pay for everyone on all these jaunts and she recently said she'd lent this woman £500 and when she asked for it back the nurse said she couldn't

because it had been stolen. She's very upset about this, but says she'll never speak to me again if I go involved, and still goes on outings with her. What should I do?

Yours sincerely, Sonia

Anyone with advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Chancery Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2183; e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk, giving a postal address for a bouquet!



هكذا من اجل

To the Duke, with devotion

Edward Kennedy Ellington was born 100 years ago today. To commemorate the centenary of the greatest and most recorded jazz artist of the century, we asked 10 leading musicians from Britain and the States to nominate their favourite recordings of material written by the Duke, or by members of his orchestra. Compiled by Phil Johnson



Wynton Marsalis
trumpeter and artistic director of jazz at Lincoln Center, New York
When you come into contact with Duke Ellington, you're interacting with the very substance and essence of what American life is all about. Once you understand it, it transforms your life, and opens you up to a world of beauty that perhaps you didn't know existed. Ellington composed over 2000 works in his life: he's the most prolific American composer of the 20th century. He wrote the perfect song for whatever mood you're in, so it would be impossible to choose one favourite. However, I have a special affection for many of his later works, such as "The New Orleans Suite", "Afro-Eurasian Eclipse", "The Far East Suite", and "Such Sweet Thunder", since the band had been playing together for so long and Duke was drawing ideas from so many diverse sources.



Phil Collins
singer and drummer
To me, Duke Ellington personifies elegance. His band, his music and his look took the music of his day to a new level. I have a particular kinship with "Do Nothing Till You Hear From Me", which was written by his trumpet player Cootie Williams. Lyrics were added and Al Hibbler made the song a hit. Quincy Jones asked me to sing the song on his *Juke Joint* record and it was a great experience for me. It's a tough melody to sing but it exemplifies the subtleties of Duke's music.



George Russell
composer
When I was a schoolboy in Ohio in the Thirties, I heard Duke on the jukebox on the way home from school, and later played with him in Chicago. I can't name a favourite track - I can't break Duke down that way. In my opinion, his music is on too high a level to be categorised.



Charlie Haden
bassist
My favourite Duke Ellington tracks are from 1940 when he did the duets with bassist Jimmy Blanton such as "Pitter Panther Patter" and "Body and Soul". When Blanton bowed "Body and Soul", I don't think I've ever heard anything so beautiful and beyond category. My favourite Ellington album is the soundtrack to *Anatomy of a Murder*, particularly the track "Low Key Lighting" where Ray Nance takes a solo on violin: it's absolutely amazing.



Claire Martin
singer
There are so many favourites, but it has to be Billy Strayhorn's "Lush Life", recorded by Ella Fitzgerald on 26 June 1957 for the *Duke Ellington Songbook* album. It's a great artist singing one of the most perfect of songs and it's stunning, a whole portrayal of the dark side of love. It's a scary song for a singer, but Ella does it with so much love, and she's accurate and soulful too. She and Duke sang it at Billy Strayhorn's funeral. I've never sung it myself because you have to be older. It's waiting for me, and I'm saving it for my forties.



Duke Ellington: his artistry took jazz, and music in general, to new levels



Stan Tracey
pianist
"A Tone Parallel to Harlem". It's a suite. Why do I like it? It's the writing and the whole thing. I just find it very pleasurable, especially from a writer's point of view.



John Surman
baritone saxophonist and reeds player
The first time I heard the Ellington band was in the Sixties at the Astoria, Finsbury Park, and it was like a visit to the Holy Grail. In 1969 I met the great Harry Carney, Duke's baritone player, and he was an absolute charmer. I've always felt I owed an enormous debt to him: he made me proud to be a baritone player. My favourite track is Carney playing one of those Strayhorn things, "The Tattooed Bride" is the main suite, and it's so beautiful, but it's the iron fist in the velvet glove again. Yes, it's beautiful, but it swings like the clappers at the same time.



Julian Joseph
pianist
The legacy is gigantic, totally mammoth. It's not only the volume of it, but the profound density. He defined jazz with everything he did: by swinging, by adding colours to the harmony, and by bringing form to the big band. It's hard to take one track because the album for him is like a track for someone else. But there's a performance of "Come Sunday" in "The Black and Tan Fantasy" that I really love. The orchestra sounds like the wind, the rain, and the elements. So simple and beautiful.



Gavin Bryars
composer and bassist
As a teenager in 1959 or 1960 I hitchhiked from Goole to Sheffield City Hall to see Ellington, sitting behind the band for the performance. What interested me a lot about him was the whole idea of the jazz composer. To someone like myself, it's daunting to see someone write music of that volume and that quality. My favourite track would be "Lush Life", recorded by the singer Sheila Jordan, with Arild Andersen on bass.



Guy Barker
trumpeter
I have no real favourite because there's such a wealth of stuff, but my best music would be from the collaborations with Billy Strayhorn, such as "Such Sweet Thunder" or "The Far East Suite". For me, Strayhorn was the guy. My choice would be the last thing you hear on the album called *And His Mother Called Him Bill*. The tape was left running as the musicians left the studio and at the end you hear Duke playing what I think is "A Flower Is A Loving Thing".

We Love You Madly, the Royal Festival Hall's Duke Ellington festival, today to Sat. On Sat at 5pm in the QEH the London Sinfonietta premieres new works commissioned for the centenary by Gavin Bryars, Simon Bainbridge, Nikki Iles, Carla Bley, Louis Andriessen and Paul Ruders. 0171-960 4242. *Jump for Joy*, a celebration of Ellington's centenary, Barbican, June and July. 0171-638 8891

The blonde enemy within

JONATHAN KENT'S visually impressive revival of *Plenty*, David Hare's iconic 1978 play, refuses to buck the trend of casting non-English actresses in the central role. This is a major irony since Susan Traherne, whom the play follows from her idealistic Resistance work in occupied France to her mental disintegration in the 1960s - is supposed to symbolise how England won the war and morally lost the peace. She incarnates the terrible cost, to herself and others, of a life spent in resistance to the shabby compromises of post-1945 society.

In the wake of Kate Nelligan (Canadian) and Meryl Streep (American), we are now given the Australian actress, Cate Blanchett, who recently made such a magnificent job, in the movie *Elizabeth*, of redefining

THEATRE

PLENTY
ALBERTY THEATRE
LONDON

our perception of another pretty important example of English womanhood.

But the part of Susan badly defeats her. Indeed, if Kent had gone into the project with the express intention of exposing the weaknesses of what now looks to be a severely overrated play, I don't see what more he could have done - bar, say, cast Ms Blanchett's compatriot, Dame Edna Everidge, and subject her to comparably unprotective direction.

The play is full of reppy, smug satire of English diplomatic circles and other national types. The laughter this

invites, though, is as repellantly clubby as the ethos it attacks. An actress needs to make you veer between sympathy for and alienation from Susan and her increasingly crazed, driven superiority to these folk. Her performance should keep you tantalised about the extent to which the character is, on the one hand, a victim of post-1945 disillusion and, on the other, a woman whose fiercely brandished wartime memories are a convenient cover for a pre-existing personality disorder: a constitutional inability to tolerate human intimacy except in the abnormal, ecstatic snatches of dangerous undercover work.

A lean, imposing blonde, Blanchett looks terrific in the mounting chic frocks worn by Susan as she launches into a more and more hysterical psy-



Cate Blanchett in 'Plenty'

chiatric exhibitionism. But the actress's erratic, wildly over-the-top attempts at a posh English accent give her performance the air of being a parodic sabotage-job on Susan, as do the sudden alarming accelerations into doubled-up unintelligible apoplexy.

This, I'm afraid, is fatal to the seriousness with which one can take the proceedings. It's

excessive to the point where you feel that three weeks trapped in a lift with Hedda Gabler would be a picnic compared to a brief drink with this head-case drag-act.

Plenty patronisingly spells out all its potential subtleties. It's as though the author thinks he's the only person in the country equipped with a moderate intelligence. In 1978, the play looked back at Suez and the moral betrayals of the post-war period. Now, from the perspective of another ethically dubious bout of foreign policy, we look back at that looking back. Hare wonders what the young will make of it. So do I.

PAUL TAYLOR

Booking: 0171-369 1740. A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

The hit and myth approach

ALTHOUGH RICHARD Hickox called his City of London Sinfonia series "Greek Myths", links to the ancients mattered less than the opportunity to hear rare versions of operas familiar in different forms. Last Tuesday we got, more or less, Strauss's first (1912) version of *Ariadne auf Naxos*. It was prefaced, not by the complete text of Molière's play *Le bourgeois gentilhomme* (to which the opera was a pendant, and for which Strauss provided frothy neo-classical incidental music), but by Nigel Douglas's rather thesper narration. An

OPERA

STRAUSS/MOZART
BARBICAN
LONDON

acceptable compromise given that Strauss's original plan (hatched with his librettist Hugo von Hofmannsthal) resulted in an evening of super-Wagnerian length.

This was a concert performance, but had enough dramatisation to hold the eye as well as the ear. Hickox stuck strictly to Strauss's prescribed 37-

piece orchestra, and having the players in full view instead of in the pit allowed air and light into the music. Moments of thin string-playing were more than compensated for by sheer verve, and for once we could hear just how much the harmonium contributes: a lot.

Hickox had a cast to grace any opera house, and most of the singers did without a score. Christine Brewer's Ariadne was radiantly secure, rising in full glory to the big moments, yet capable of the utmost delicacy. I've not heard her sing better. If the demands that

Strauss makes of Zerbinetta in the familiar Ariadne are exorbitant, in this version they are practically illegal. Cyndia Sieden pinched a few notes, but got more of them than we have any right to expect, and her pert characterisation contrasted neatly with Brewer's more stately disposition. This Ariadne left me feeling that there might be a real opera here, rather than the silly parlour game it usually resembles.

Ten days earlier, Hickox gave the UK premiere of Strauss's 1931 edition of Mozart's *Idomeneo*, a real

rarity, and no doubt destined to remain so. Strauss's efforts were misguided, but what he offered was a glimpse of Mozart through a thin but richly decorated veil, moments of nearly pure Mozart imperceptibly metamorphosing into nearly pure Strauss, and vice versa. Performed with passion, as here, Strauss's *Idomeneo* succeeds on its own terms. With another stellar cast, led by Kurt Streit as Idomeneo, Strauss in Mozart drag proved to be rather impressive. Shall we ever hear it again?

NICK KIMBERLEY

If you only see one movie this year - see this one twice

7 WINNER
OSCARS
INCLUDING
BEST PICTURE

WINNER 4 BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARDS



SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

STILL SHOWING ACROSS THE COUNTRY

FILM

The games people play

It's hard to come away from a David Cronenberg movie and not feel that here is a director who missed his true vocation – as a surgeon, perhaps, or a pathologist. No other contemporary director has been so obsessive in his investigation of the body and its capacity for mutation, disease and decay. Yet hand in hand with this preoccupation goes a feeling of dismay – it might even be compassion – for the individual mind, warped by its own frailties, instincts, desires. Cronenberg, who began his career as a horror director, has developed through a sequence of films – *The Dead Zone*, *Videodrome*, *The Fly*, *Dead Ringers* – into one of the great anatomists of the human condition. It's a condition, as these films tell us, that we shouldn't expect to escape from alive.

Which brings us to *eXistenZ*, Cronenberg's latest, and notable for being based on the first original screenplay he has written since *Videodrome*. As an exercise in disorientation it will take some beating. Set sometime in the future, it opens in a church hall where a service seems to be in progress – only it's not a service but a focus group gathered to test-drive a new virtual-reality game called "eXistenZ". Guest of honour is the game's cult designer, Allegra Geller (Jennifer Jason Leigh), who's just initiated some eager players into her new creation when an assassin bursts onto the stage wielding a gristle gun. A what? Well, it's a pistol made from bone and gristle, fires human teeth for bullets and is designed to get past any metal detector. *Tomorrow's World* was never like this.

THE BIG PICTURE



ANTHONY QUINN

eXistenZ (15)
DIRECTOR:
DAVID CRONENBERG
STARRING: JENNIFER JASON LEIGH, JUDE LAW, IAN HOLM
95 MINUTES

In the ensuing pandemonium Allegra goes on the lam with a games company trainee, Ted Pikul (Jude Law). It transpires that there's a fatwa out on Allegra, who decides that her best route of escape is through her own game. In order to take Pikul with her she has to get him fitted with a "bioport", a spinal jack through which he can be plugged directly into "eXistenZ". "I have this phobia about my body being penetrated – surgically, I mean", says Pikul, and who wouldn't feel a bit queasy presented with a gas-pump attendant (Willem Dafoe) as your emergency physician? "The one thing you don't wanna do is miss with the stud-finder," muses Dafoe, whose canine rictus of delight gives us the clearest indication so far that all is not as it seems in *eXistenZ*. Sure enough, the film spirals deeper through multiple layers of meaning wherein fantasy and reality

become indistinguishable. Cronenberg's ludic sensibility takes control as we slip perplexingly between the couple's fight from Allegra's enemies and the twilight, phantasmagoric world of "eXistenZ". The tone of the movie is difficult to judge. As a friend remarked, it's the kind of movie that's almost purpose-built for film critics and enthusiasts to argue over. At first it seems to be a droll prognosis on celebrity. We've turned every other profession into a fetish – why not games designers? Then it evolves into a sort of futuristic sex comedy, with Jude Law in the Woody Allen role of squeamish sexual initiator, you don't need to be a Freudian to discern the visual innuendo of the puckered flesh around the bioport. When Allegra furiously rebukes Pikul – "You neurosurged and blew my pod!" – I was transported right back to Diane Keaton and her Orgasmatron in *Sleeper*.

There's just one problem with the film's putative status as a comedy. While one may fall to admiring a certain droll intelligence at work, there is hardly anything you could honestly call funny. Cronenberg zooms in on familiar themes of addiction, control, the endless appetite for diversion (at one point we glimpse the box of a game called "Hit by a Car – the Game That Puts You in the Driver's Seat"), but there's none of the horrid laughter which *The Fly* or the first half-hour of *Dead Ringers* provoked. The film's dreamlike state tends to deaden whatever point Cronenberg is trying to make: in a world where nothing is as it seems, where existence is malleable, anything can happen. And when anything can happen, nothing matters. So it is we



Jude Law and Jennifer Jason Leigh: 'eXistenZ' could have been made for film aficionados to argue over

can watch with perfect equanimity as Pikul, sitting in a Chinese restaurant, assembles a gristle gun from the unappetising contents of his soup and shoots a waiter dead. This is from the same menu of gross-out goo as Cronenberg's *Naked Lunch*, and it elicits a similar feeling of dislocation. Once any pretence of reality has been

jettisoned, it hardly matters if we're locked inside a trip or a mind game: the point is, the experience comes to us at one remove. Pikul and Allegra may be in danger, or they may not. "Are we still in the game?" asks Allegra. Do we care?

Cronenberg could be playing a deeper game, of course. There is a possibility that *eXistenZ* is actually

a satire on narrative itself. At one point, Pikul's conversation with a trout farmer – don't ask – grinds to a halt, and Allegra reminds her companion that he needs to feed his interlocutor a "game line", or else he can't respond. She later remarks that the farmer was "not a well-drawn character. His dialogue was only so-so." This cute bit of metafictional

trickery reminds us, in case we had forgotten, that we're watching a film, that we too are willing travellers in the dark. But that's not a thesis which requires such tortuous elaboration. You go to a David Cronenberg film expecting guile, wit, a seductive paranoia. Bioports, micropods, stud-finders – you can get that stuff at home.

ALSO SHOWING

SOLOMON AND GAENOR PAUL MORRISON (15) ■ KNOCK OFF TSUI HARK (18) ■ THE NINTH CONFIGURATION WILLIAM PETER BLATTY (18) ■ IN DREAMS NEIL JORDAN (18)
AT FIRST SIGHT IRWIN WINKLER (12) ■ THE HONEST COURTESAN MARSHALL HERSKOVITZ (15) ■ THE WATERBOY FRANK CORACI (12)

IT ALWAYS rains in Wales, and in *Solomon and Gaenor* it fairly pours. The time is 1911, the place a small mining community, the subject a love affair that breaches ethnic and religious divides. Solomon (Ioan Gruffudd), the eldest son of a Jewish draper, courts Gaenor (Nia Roberts), the shy daughter of a Chapel-going family. Mindful of this, he conceals his background, a deception which rebounds on him when a rising tide of antisemitic hatred engulfs the town and puts familial loyalties to the test.

Paul Morrison's film is modestly told and sensitively shot, opening a window on both cultural bigotry and the narrow lot of indigent Valley folk in the early years of the century. Its last reel takes precisely the route you hoped it wouldn't – headfirst into Hardy-esque sadism – though it shouldn't cloud the sombre beauty of the photography and the affecting restrained performances

of Roberts and Gruffudd (an excellent Pip in the recent BBC *Great Expectations*).

Knock Off is Jean Claude Van Damme's latest attempt to prove that guns and knives are of no physical threat to a man who can kick really high. Set during the 1997 Hong Kong handover, it propels a muscled huckster (Van Damme) into the midst of a Russian mafia conspiracy to launch a micro-bomb on the terrorist black market. Director Tsui Hark, a leading exponent of the Hong Kong action genre, uses *slo-mo* to lead Van Damme's antics the right degree of heroic pomposity, while the city itself looks to have been so comprehensively trashed one wonders quite what was left for the British to hand over.

First released in 1980, *The Ninth Configuration* is notable for being the directorial debut of William Peter Blatty, who wrote *The Exorcist*. The same weighty preoccupations are



At First Sight: frictionless and one-paced

apparent. It's a hand-wringing and somewhat hysterical drama about an army psychiatrist (Stacy Keach) who is posted to a remote Gothic castle where a bush-hush mental asylum has been set up for disturbed Vietnam vets and the like. Keach's most tormented patient is an astronaut (Scott Wilson) who aborted a moon-

shot after coming down with a dose of the existential jitters: he now defies the shrink to prove the possibility of God – and good – in the world. Blatty's metaphysical musings are too earnest for words, while the attempt to create a paranoid, Hitchcock-style madhouse can't dispel an air of contrivance. The Christian symbolism is sin-

cerely felt but chunkily delivered – the big fight scene, in which Keach finally turns on a gang of bikers, has the look of an ancient Black Sabbath video. For committed Blatty-philes only.

In *Dreams* is a drab, pretentious trawl through the paranormal in which Annette Bening plays a children's book illustrator haunted by ghastly premonitions of murder. Neil Jordan's picture begins with the arresting image of a drowned city, but soon ends up beached and gasping for air as Bening's life is torn apart by a loony killer (Robert Downey Jr) who's somehow accessed her dreams. Anyone expecting another *Eyes of Laura Mars* can forget it. Jordan seems to be under the illusion he's directing a serious art movie – in his dreams – and tarts up the story with fairy-tale resonances and doomy lighting. When it's not mereitricious it's simply incompetent: why cast Stephen Rea as a psychiatrist and give

him absolutely nothing to do?

Irwin Winkler's *At First Sight* is based, like *Awakenings*, on an Oliver Sacks case study. Amy (Mira Sorvino), a New York architect on vacation, has no sooner fallen in love with blind masseur Virgil (Val Kilmer) than she's contacted a pioneering eye surgeon who restores to Virgil the sight he lost as a child. So begin the couple's problems as he tries to comprehend the world after a lifetime in the dark, while she tries to keep track of his moods and frustration. The film teases out its theme – the importance of seeing with your heart as much as your eyes, and so on – in a mostly frictionless and one-paced fashion.

The Honest Courtesan is a fabulously awful costume romp whose name should be a last-ling embarrassment to all involved. Catherine McCormack stars as Veronica, a 16th-century Venetian lass whose lowly social standing disqualifies her from marrying handsome aristocrat Marco (Rufus Sewell). Rather than spend a lifetime in drudgery or nunnery, she takes her mother's advice and becomes a courtesan to the high and mighty, crowning her career as everyone's favourite horizontal by spanking the backside of the King of France himself. Shooting through a syrupy haze, director Marshall Herskovitz offers eroticism and elegance on a par with that Fer-

rero-Rocher advert, and I kept waiting for a periwigged butler to show up with a platter of golden-froiled chocs.

Do you really need to know how much I hated *The Waterboy*? Oh, all right then. It's a lame-brain American football comedy in which Adam Sandler, the ingratiating dork from *The Wedding Singer*, goes from team whipping boy to Most Valuable Player as he discovers unsuspected tackling skills, despite having a physique that makes Jarvis Cocker look like Giant Haystacks. Prostratingly stupid junk.

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RUSHES

IN THE wake of the Columbine massacre, MGM lost no time last week in recalling all video copies of its four-year-old Leonardo DiCaprio film *The Basketball Diaries*. In the film – already cited in a separate teen-shooting damages suit – DiCaprio, wearing a black trenchcoat, is depicted shooting a teacher and pupils as part of a dream sequence. The two suspects in the Colorado shootings were said to be members of a gang called the Trenchcoat Mafia. "We are going to attempt to get as many of these videos off the shelf as possible," an MGM spokesman told the *Wall Street Journal*. "We think it's the responsible thing to do under the circumstances." Responsible? Maybe. Legal? Afraid not. The studio believed it had acquired the rights to *The Basketball Diaries* when it bought the PolyGram film library in January. It turns out, however, that MGM won't strictly own the title for some time yet.

AS IF the cashpoint screen wasn't already home to scenes of unspeakable horror and tension, holes-in-the-wall in several US cities are to show movie trailers. ATM technology is up to the job, apparently, and the business interests involved figure that the trailers will, at the very least, have a captive audience. More to the point, the trailers will only play while the cashpoint is processing your request and, it is claimed, will not add to transaction times.

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Small country, big ideas

There's more to film-making in Scotland than the brash nihilism of *Trainspotting* or the epic sweep of *Braveheart*. In the fourth part of our major series on devolution and the arts, Liese Spencer asks if the country can find its own voice

Tommy takes his junkie mates to The Great Outdoors. Then, as they sit shivering and swigging vodka, he throws open his arms to the snow-capped mountains and the wide blue sky and asks Renton if it doesn't make him proud to be Scottish. "It's shite being Scottish," Renton replies. "We're the lowest of the low... some people hate the English. I don't, they're just wankers. We, on the other hand, are colonised by wankers... ruled by effete arseholes."

The scene is from *Trainspotting*, a film that put modern Scotland on the map just as *Braveheart*'s mêlée of myth and martyrdom offered a Hollywood history of a lusty nation state fighting back against its decadent southern oppressors. Whether it's Renton ranting against Scottish Heritage scenery or Mel Gibson's troops tramping through that same heroic landscape before lifting their kilts to "moon" at the enemy, such images define Scotland against The Great Outside.

With the new Parliament such a siege mentality looks likely to shift, pushing Scottish cinema into a new era. So how will a Scotland free of Sassenachs imagine itself, and what kind of tartan reels can the rest of the world expect to see? At a recent conference in Glasgow, the panellist Elaine C Smith (better known as the long-suffering wife of TV's *Rab C Nesbitt*) argued that "we look at ourselves too much through the eyes of another country". But, for the Edinburgh-born writer/director Anthony Neilson, devolution also means dismantling Scotland's own outdated self-image. "National pride can't be based on an image - being hard, and up for a drink, we've got to create a real identity and not be afraid of being seen as culturally aware, a modern country," he says.

In his forthcoming film, *The Debt Collector*, Neilson explores what he sees as two opposing sides of the Scottish psyche. The Edinburgh-set crime thriller stars Billy Connolly as a violent repo-man rehabilitated by a spell in prison. Ken Stott plays the policeman who put him inside, an avenging Calvinist cop determined not to let Connolly's celebrity sculptor escape his knife-wielding past. "I think there's always a complicity in a country that feels itself oppressed," says Neilson. "It's divided against itself on one level. In *The Debt Collector* there's a dialogue about that. Ultimately, these two allegorical figures end up fighting to the death, with Edinburgh Castle rock behind them."

Neilson's bleak "Scottish Western" suggests a nation confident enough to question rather than re-package its stereotypes. For John Archer,



Where it all began? The wry humour of Bill Forsyth's *Gregory's Girl* provided an inspiration for today's Scottish film-makers

executive director of Scottish Screen, it's less a symptom of political devolution than part of the process that facilitated it. "The thing I like about the new Parliament is that it's rooted in reality: the cultural devolution that has already taken place forms the bedrock of the new political government," he says. Archer traces the roots of today's Scottish cinema "right back to the wry humour of Bill Forsyth's *Gregory's Girl* and *Local Hero*, which played off the Ealing tradition of *Whisky Galore*", through *Shallow Grave*, "which seemed true to its yuppie New Town setting while offering an image of contemporary Scotland that got accepted worldwide."

Glasgow Film Fund's Lenny Crooks also welcomes the new Parliament, but strikes a more cautious note. "I think it will be a long time before we can even think in terms of Scotland having a discrete film pol-

icy. We're certainly not going to get any special tax breaks yet. Scotland is still considered a region, not a small country like Ireland, which means that we don't get European funding. At the moment there's still a glut of money down in London."

According to Archer, there are plans afoot to set up an organisation called Scottish Film Investments to lure more money north of the Border by "using public finance to underwrite private investments", but until such dreams are realised, Scotland is stuck producing a handful of home-grown independents. "In terms of lottery money, we receive about £3m," sighs Archer. "That's a decent development fund, not a production fund."

It took *Braveheart* for Scotland to get savvy about location shooting. When Mel Gibson decided to decamp to Ireland to shoot some scenes for his film, a review was ordered to find

out how to attract international productions to Scotland. Archer says Scottish Screen will be consulting with members of the new Parliament to develop a Scottish Film Charter "which ensures Scotland is location-friendly". In the meantime, the country is basking in a fleet of high-profile productions.

A £7m adaptation of Iain Banks's thriller *Complicity*, starring Johnny Lee Miller, has already begun shooting, while the American director Kathryn Bigelow is reported to be planning to turn Rosyth Dockyard on the Firth of Forth into a

Russian submarine base for her Cold War thriller, *K19: The Widow Maker*. Glasgow will double as turn-of-the-century New York in *The House of Mirth*, an adaptation of Edith Wharton's novel, starring Gillian Anderson. As for Mull, the island is awash with excitement at the news that Sean Connery and Catherine Zeta Jones will be wandering its shores shooting *Entrapment*.

"We're not singing and shouting about devolution and the new Scottish Film Production," says Crooks, "we're just quietly getting on and trying to build an infrastructure." Crooks's chill practicality is offset by warm winds of rumour that whisper of a renaissance, a new Golden Age ruled over by the exiled King Connery and supported by a new Sony studio in Edinburgh.

But Neilson, too, is sceptical: "I think there tends to be this perception in both Scotland and Britain that

you're successful only when you've broken into the US market. That's also the case in terms of funding. People want to sell to the American market rather than backing products aimed at a domestic audience."

Neilson would like to see the future Scottish film industry based on the French model. "For many years French film was self-sufficient, content to make low-budget films for its own audiences. In Scotland, I think we should circumvent the whole British thing and go straight into Europe, be accepted in our own right."

One way in which Scotland is beginning to carve out an identity for itself in Europe is by subverting British "misérabilism" with a more surreal sensibility. Spanning everything from *Trainspotting*, through Gillies McKinnon's *Small Feces*, to Peter Mullan's forthcoming directorial debut *Orphans*, such new Scottish fare dodges both the politicised

realism of Loach's *My Name is Joe* and the lushly photographed romance of Rob Roy to offer what Archer tentatively describes in the *Herald* newspaper as "dirty magic realism".

It's a mixed category applied across a wide bunch of movies, but it is just that diversity of which Neilson approves. "We're just starting to build a film tradition. I want to feel that we have a breadth of material, not a narrow, prescriptive sense of what it means to be Scottish," he says. "I didn't really like *Braveheart*, but in a weird way *The Debt Collector* is a kind of sequel. I wanted to do something contemporary but epic in feel. I wanted to ask why it is that we attach these big production values only to historical movies. My use of wide screen and melodramatic music is, in a sense, political. It's the idea that our stories can be as big as anyone else's."

WHAT NEXT FOR THE ARTS IN SCOTLAND?

Stuart Cosgrove
Head of regional programmes, Channel 4
Republican France, revolutionary Russia and the Poland of Solidarity artistic activity prior to political change. I have a hunch the same is true of Scotland.

The Scottish Labour Party
Scottish New Labour has made available £1.8m for Scottish Screen to help develop a successful film industry in Scotland and attract international projects.

Peter Capaldi
Actor/director
Already, there has been an air of self-confidence building through the arts - and that should continue. I hope that devolution means that the Scottish people feel more confident about their culture; the more powerful one feels, the more secure one is.

TOMORROW

Elisabeth Mahoney on the pop scene and Mary Miller on classical music

Frugal films

Major distributors tried to muscle in on the indie Houston Film Festival. So it was time to get tough

"SMALL IS beautiful" was the boast at the streamlined 32nd WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival earlier this month. Pointedly eschewing the glitz and hyperbole of Hollywood, this laid-back annual event (where Steven Spielberg and George Lucas both collected their first awards) focused on the independent sector, where credit cards and the goodwill of friends often drive the film-making process.

You'd think that downsizing a festival dedicated to struggling auteurs would be counter-productive. But WorldFest's ebullient director and founder, Hunter Todd, said that it was a necessary response to the acquisition of many of the leading independent production companies by Hollywood studios. As a result, the festival had in recent years become little more than a free "sneak preview" venue for the major distributors. In order to return WorldFest to its roots, therefore, Todd restricted its Feature Film Competition section to independently financed films without an American distributor.

The 40 feature films (around 500 were submitted for consideration) selected for screenings at a small multiplex in one of Houston's many anonymous shopping precincts came from around the world and ranged from a well-meaning but heavy-

handed examination of the modern Native American experience (*Naturally Native*), to a baffling, Eraser-head-inspired psycho-sexual thriller (*Pure Killjoy*).

Despite the fiercely independent tenor of WorldFest, a special dispensation was given to a past winner of the short film section (and this year's Sundance victor), Tony Bui, to open the event with his October Films-financed first feature, *Three Seasons*. A

Credit cards and goodwill drive the film-making

sensuous and haunting collage of interconnecting stories of hope and redemption set in contemporary Saigon, the film represents the California-based director's lyrical response to a visit to the country of his birth - 17 years after his military officer father was forced to flee Vietnam following the collapse of the south. While it is somewhat contrived in its plotting and a little rose-tinted, Bui's elegant craftsmanship belies his age (he's still only 26) and inexperience, making *Three Seasons* appear like the work of a more seasoned artist.

Another Asian-American director making a splash was VV Dachin Hsu, whose *My American Vacation* topped

the drama section. Like a Zen version of *Daytrippers*, the film exudes warmth and charm as it good-naturedly idles its way across scenic Midwestern locations.

The same cannot be said for *Cleopatra's Second Husband*, a disturbing black comedy in which two men's claustrophobic relationship becomes a twisted parody of an abusive marriage. The film's tactful direction and deadpan humour recall *Spanking the Monkey*, and there are echoes of *The Collector*. *The Vanishing* and *Zed & Two Noughts*. But ultimately, this is a unique and unsettling genre-bender which, aside from a sign-posted pay-off, keeps viewers guessing. All that is certain is that its writer/director, Jon Reiss, has a very sick mind indeed.

Finally, the Uruguayan film *The Life Jacket is Under Your Seat* proved hard to beat for sheer energy. According to its director, Leonardo Ricagni, this tale of a Frank Zappa lookalike (played by Jorge Esmeris) who takes on a Christ-like significance when he and his band help save a holy shrine, reflects issues relevant to his country today. Quite what those issues were is hard to say as Ricagni dispenses with narrative coherence in favour of an onslaught of hyper-stylised images and an ear-assaulting soundtrack. The effect is wearisomely thrilling.

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The bewitching Ms Bisset

Jacqueline Bisset might be best remembered for *that* scene in *The Deep*, but over the past three decades she has worked with some of the greatest names in film, from Chabrol to Houston. And now she's busier than ever. By John Walsh

Did I ever get my kit off?" asked Jacqueline Bisset. "What does that mean?" It is one of those moments when you feel you may have misjudged things. Not just in forgetting that the divine Ms Bisset has spent the majority of her life in America, and would be unfamiliar with bloke-speak, but also in failing to realise that you are addressing a film star of the utmost grown-up sophistication.

To Hollywood she is the living embodiment of class. To the rest of us she's an actress who could always radiate a unique brand of starchy, hands-off, English sexuality. Now 54, Ms Bisset still breathes the same doof and combative sultriness.

She stands in the doorway of the Dorchester suite. She has tremendous presence. Her eyes scorch you. They hit you like Stalag searchlights. Her clothes are appealingly contradictory. A Jean-Paul Gaultier black linen two-piece suggests a no-nonsense committee woman, but her grey waistcoat is buttoned over a tremendously surging cleavage. The authority figure with the Grand Canyon posture - she has been rowing two generations of chaps, with this oxymoronic image for three decades.

Her latest release is *The Honest Courtesan*, an enjoyable piece of trash from first-timer Marshall Herskovitz. He created a Hollywoodised 16th-century Venice at Rome's Cinecittà to tell the story of a poor-but-headstrong beauty, Veronica (Catherine McCormack), who is instructed in the arts of pleasing men by her mother - a seen-it-all ex-courtesan played by Bisset with stained teeth and unsmiling worldliness. After becoming the sexy toast of La Serenissima, she is tried for witchcraft by the Spanish Inquisition.

It's not the most sympathetic role in the world, I observed, playing a mother who teaches her daughter to be a whore. "I didn't think it was unsympathetic," she said. "You have to think yourself into her position. She'd lived the courtesan life 20 years earlier. Now she's married and raised two children, and unforeseen need has made her tell her daughter, 'You have to take care of us'. She can't get a job in the wine fields. Only courtesans were properly educated then. That's the point of the film, that women didn't have alternatives. It's the story of a woman who gets punished for being too charming, too magical, too sexual and too powerful."



'I have very intense conversations with people about politics, important things. I ask a lot of questions. My friends call me The Inquisitor'

Tom Craig

In one risible scene, Bisset introduces her daughter to a naked man and shows her what you're supposed to do with one. "You must touch him here and here," she says to her mystified child, with the air of someone explaining how to hot-wire a Jag, while the unclothed *homo erectus* glares at them both with evident hatred.

Only someone as cool about sex as Bisset could have, or pulled it off. "It was difficult to do," she concedes. "The poor guy was really quite embarrassed. But the thing in scenes like that is, basically, you don't look, you do it without looking. The etiquette of naked-man scenes is that you glaze over, so that you don't stare at the person."

The etiquette, eh? It's easy to for-

get that Ms Bisset has a curriculum vitae as long as both her arms; over 50 films beginning with Richard Lester's *The Knack* in 1965. Easy also to forget that she has worked with some of the best directors - Chabrol, Truffaut, George Cukor, John Huston - and ageing screen gods such as Paul Newman and Marlon Brando. (She said no as her boyfriend was in the gen, and she knew how he'd feel if he emerged to see his date jiving with *The Wild One*).

The best directors, she says, are the ones who don't muck about with the script and who reassure you: "who make you feel that, if you make a terrible blunder, you won't have egg on your face - or if you do, it'll be quite fun. Who, like a grand-

father, put their arms around you and make you feel safe."

She was especially impressed by Huston, "who was very much about shaving everything, getting cleaner and clearer, and more linear until you were left with the bare bones. In *Under The Volcano*, he was so lackadaisical. He'd let Albert [Finney] and Anthony [Andrews] and I just wander about, make no attempt to direct us, and say 'What have you come up with, dears? Let me see what you've done and I'll put the camera in front of it'."

A bad director, by contrast, she says, is "someone who talks too much, who keeps going on and on, and who makes you confused, until all you're aware of is concentrating on concentrating."

I said the reason some directors babble at her was probably because they're mesmerised by her Lamia-like gaze. "Do you think so? I met a producer once, who said 'Don't look at me. Your eyes are so frightening. You remind me of Jack Nicholson.' So I said, 'Don't look at me then.' And we had to have a conversation with both our heads turned away."

She is currently busier than she's ever been. In the Seventies, her sex-pot heyday, she averaged three movies a year. This year she has seven projects simmering away. One is *Joan of Arc* in which she plays the Orléans visionary's mama. "And I just realised when talking about it the other day, it's a similar theme to the *Courtesan*, though it's a century earlier - Joan is an independent

spirit fighting against the society of her time, is accused of being a witch and punished..." You're in danger of becoming typecast, I said. The Witch's Mother. The idea didn't, for some reason, please her.

The night before we met, Charlotte Rampling was on television, impersonating Miss Havisham in *Great Expectations*. The fictional Miss H was slightly younger than Miss B. There's an honourable tradition of film beauties graduating to playing non-beautiful madwomen (Joan Crawford, Bette Davis). Was she going to join it? "I'm managing the transition to older-women parts quite smoothly, I think," she said sleepily. "I've just played a very ravaged woman in a new American movie called *Backward Looks*,

Hard Corners. Very ravaged. But it's incredibly liberating - so much easier than having to look beautiful all the time." It's like, you know, really hard for her.

She's also to be seen in a remake of Hitchcock's 1951 *Strangers on a Train*, a French comedy, two small British dramas, and an Australian thriller, in which "I play a woman who's accused of witchcraft and kidnapping". Witchcraft follows Jacqueline around. She even met some white witches in Melbourne. "They told me, magic is just will. And the power of the will is strong. I think..."

There, I think, may be the key to her appeal: the strong-willed Ms Bisset's natural determination is translated, by the camera, into bewitchment, just as Jack Nicholson's will (and eyes) sold you *Wolf* and *The Witches of Eastwick*...

Why did she keep up this punishing strike-rate of movies? "Lots of reasons. It keeps me interested in life. It's an opportunity to talk to people I wouldn't otherwise meet. It's - it's life, you know? It's stuff. It's what I do best."

She has no intention of spending more time by the pool or tending her garden. "I'm not very sociable. I have very intense conversations with friends, people I really interconnect with. We talk about politics, important things. I like to talk about ideas and get people to be specific. My friends laugh at me, they call me The Inquisitor because I ask such a lot of questions. And in Hollywood, nobody asks any questions, after 'How're you?'"

Emboldened by this news, I asked her about kit-removal. Amazingly, this gorgeous woman, this Berkshire Aphrodite, whose most famous screen image was the wet T-shirt shot in *The Deep*, has never appeared naked on celluloid. "But in 1987 I did a film called *High Season*, directed by Clare Peploe, in which I had to run naked into the sea with Kenneth Branagh. I was up for it. I took my bicycle from London, got to Rhodes and exercised till midnight every night, trying to get my bum up to the right place. It was extremely self-conscious. Kenneth was not. We cleared the beach. It was night. Finally, I threw all my clothes off and rushed into the water..."

Is it, I enquired neutrally, available on video? "She didn't use it! And after I worked so hard." And the bewitching Ms Bisset's searchlight eyes narrowed with laughter.

The Honest Courtesan is reviewed on page 10

Exorcising 'The Exorcist'

William Peter Blatty began his career as a comedy writer. Then he wrote the script for a legendary film. Bad move. By Stephen Applebaum

LIKE JOHN Milton, the author of *Paradise Lost*, William Peter Blatty is a writer with deep religious convictions who has been wrongly accused of having sympathy for the Devil. To this day, he laments down the telephone from his LA home, there are people who believe that evil triumphs at the end of *The Exorcist*.

"So now, because of a bogus reputation, they will not read *The Exorcist*," he says. "They will not look at the film. They're terrified."

It is a sad irony that a man with Blatty's background should find himself being painted as the Devil's champion. He was raised as a Catholic by a mother who, he says with admiration "was extremely devoted to the Blessed Mother", and his great-uncle was an archbishop in the Middle East. Religion is in the genes of William (or Bill, as he rather sweetly prefers to be called), so there

came a time when he himself considered entering the priesthood. "It was a strong possibility," he says with a sigh. "But I was too fond of the ladies; a vow of chastity was not going to work for me."

Instead, Blatty became a writer with a gift for comedy. Using laughter to exorcise the painful circumstances of his poverty-stricken childhood, he transformed some of his own "horribly painful experiences" into his first comic novel, *Which Way to Macao, Jack?* In 1963 he broke into screenwriting with the Danny Kaye vehicle *The Man From the Diners Club*. A script for Inspector Clouseau's second outing, *A Shot in the Dark*, followed. After several more films, Hollywood turned its back on comedy and Bill found himself out in the cold.

"I was put up for straight dramatic writing jobs time and again, but

I couldn't get a job. So I had nothing better to do than go down and collect my unemployment cheque once a week and start working on this novel [*The Exorcist*]. I had been thinking about the idea for 15 years, but I had never dared to attempt something serious..."

Of course, the novel and its big-screen spin-off became a phenomenon, the latter earning Blatty an Oscar for his screenplay. He says with sadness, though, that the only impact of the award was that "I stopped worrying about how I was going to pay my bills. I never felt a rapture or even a glow of success. The process took too long. From the time I thought of the idea in college, then 20-25 years later taking months, if not years, to get someone interested in it, and then the writing of it... By the time it all came to pass, my primary emotion was just one of immense relief."



Linda Blair in 'The Exorcist'

The Exorcist reflects Blatty's own doubts about religion. "When I was writing those scripts years I was having my own crisis of belief," he says slowly. "As the characters worked through their problems of faith, I was working through mine."

But the film went further than he'd anticipated. Although Blatty had done his best in his script to ensure that people understood the outcome, the excision of two cherished scenes by William Friedkin made it possible to misconstrue the priest's victory as defeat. The scenes gave the film a moral centre, says Blatty, and they gave you "an opportunity to not dislike yourself for liking the movie". But Friedkin decided that the film was running too long, and "the theology was the first candidate to go out the window".

Seventeen years later, Blatty got an opportunity to clear up the misunderstanding when he directed his first feature, *The Ninth Configuration*. Based on an early comic novel, *Twinkle, Twinkle "Killer" Kane*, the film ends with an uplifting coda that is an affirmation of Kane/Blatty's religious faith. If

Blatty's intended message - "God is in his Heaven: all's right with the world" - got lost in Friedkin's film, there's no mistaking it here.

"Doing *The Ninth Configuration*, I welcomed the chance to clarify where I stood," he says. "And to show all those people who had misunderstood *The Exorcist* that I was not the Antichrist disguised as an author."

The Ninth Configuration also gave Blatty an opportunity to reconcile, for the first and last time in film, the different strands of his career. Prior to that novel, comedy had been his forte and his first love; after it: "Nobody wanted comedy from me any more. It's as if I had landed on the planet with the manuscript of *The Exorcist* under my arm... That's true even today. If I do mention that I wrote *A Shot in the Dark*, their eyes glaze over and 10 minutes later they've completely forgotten it."

Nevertheless, Blatty still hopes that he will be asked to direct a comedy, and will not just be offered films like *Pumpkinhead 4*. Or was it *Pumpkinhead 3*? That's the kind of offer I get."

Behind this wry, self-deprecating humour, the warm and engaging Blatty is a little disappointed with the way he is perceived today. During our conversation, he seemed almost pitifully grateful to be given the opportunity to talk about a career that has far more shading than most of us realise. Once it was religious reassurance that he needed. Today, it is the reassurance that he will actually be remembered as more than just the author of *The Exorcist* which Blatty appears to require most.

'Ninth Configuration' is released this week

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The Castle (15)
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Next to his wife and four kids, low-truck driver Darryl Kerrigan (Michael Caton) loves nothing more than his Melbourne bungalow with its uncluttered view of the international airport next door. Rob Sitch's charming comedy initially looks like an excuse to send up suburban red-neck values as Darryl tries to save his "castle" from demolition. The film owes its tone of arch innocence to Australian films like *Muriel's Wedding* and *Strictly Ballroom*. As such, the broad swipes at the Kerrigans' prejudices are as affectionate as they are barbed. Among the giggles, though, an unlikely political education is staged, with Darryl's comparison between his court battle with big business and the Aboriginals' land struggles subtly handled. Otherwise, *The Castle* aims for belly laughs and nails them every time.

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NEW FILMS

BESIEGED (PG, 92 mins)

Director: Bernardo Bertolucci
Starring: Thandie Newton, David Thewlis
In a startling volte-face from the epics of recent years, Bertolucci's new film, *Besieged*, confines itself principally to a cavernous Roman townhouse. It charts the festering master-servant relationship between Thewlis's highly strung concert pianist and Newton's refugee housemaid, all torrid glances and stuttering moments of communication. At once small-scale and ripely melodramatic, this is a mixed bag, but with a beautifully understated finale. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair. Repertory: The Fulham Everyman

THE BRYLCREEM BOYS (15, 106 mins)

Director: Terence Ryan
Starring: Gabriel Byrne, Bill Campbell
Neutral Ireland during WWII. Captured German and Allied soldiers are shoehorned into the same cells. Tensions erupt; stereotypes are paraded; uneasy allegiances forged. Ryan's film may have worked well on stage. Here, it looks flat and horribly schematic. West End: ABC Pantom Street

DANCE WITH ME (PG, 126 mins)

Director: Randa Haines
Starring: Chayanne, Vanessa L Williams
Building to a predictable finale at the World Dance Championships, the clanking *Dance With Me* has its Cuban emigre hero (Chayanne) alighting in the US of A to hunt for his long-lost pop (Kris Kristofferson), while still finding time to romance Vanessa L Williams's ballroom beauty. West End: Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

8MM (18, 123 mins)

Director: Joel Schumacher
Starring: Nicolas Cage, Joaquin Phoenix
The dead end of Hollywood politics is evident all over this would-be provocative trip through LA's porn hinterland. Nicolas Cage copes well as the private eye hired to validate what looks to be snuff-movie footage, but such souz requires careful handling, and Schumacher lets it take over. Frustratingly, *8mm* winds up contaminated by that which it is nominally investigating. West End: Clapham

Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (12, 132 mins)

Director: Luis Mandoki
Starring: Kevin Costner, Robin Wright Penn
Kevin Costner's South Carolina boat-builder writes a love letter to his dead missus. Letter goes into bottle; bottle into sea. Lonesome lady (Robin Wright Penn) finds bottle. Complete the plot in less than 50 words. We all know where this one's headed, don't we? True love, pain of the past, a dash of redemption, and that's it, you're done. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE MISADVENTURES OF MARGARET (15, 100 mins)

Director: Brian Sheet
Starring: Parker Posey, Jeremy Northam
Parker Posey is Margaret, a kind of Penelope Pitstop of romantic fiction. She touches down in Paris, weds Jeremy Northam's dippy Englishman, and writes an effervescent book or two in New York. Brian Sheet's film follows a screwball rhythm, over-egging the farce, tossing in bodice-ripping dramatisations and, crucially, leaving the characters under-drawn. The normally luminous Posey displays a series of self-conscious ticks and twitches. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

SIDE STREETS (15, 131 mins)

Director: Tony Gerber
Starring: Shashi Kapoor, Valeria Golino
A kind of *Short Cuts* without the cut. *Side Streets* rustles up a quintet of stories from New York. Cue lively vignettes and proficient playing from a multi-national cast. The whole tapestry of New York life is dry-cleaned, lightly embroidered and unrolled for your pleasure. West End: Plaza. Local: Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18, 119 mins)

A liberal essay on right-wing fanaticism, *American History X* nonetheless indulges in some dubious Nazi chic. What binds it together is a genuine tour-de-force from Oscar-nominated Edward Norton. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ARLINGTON ROAD (15, 117 mins)

Mark Pellington's intriguingly staged paranoia thriller sees Jeff Bridges's college prof becoming suspicious about the antics of his outwardly respectable neighbour (Tim Robbins). West End: Warner Village West End

AN AUTUMN TALE (U, 111 mins)

The final part of Eric Rohmer's *Tales of the Four Seasons* is airy elegiac and as warm as sunshine. Magali (Beatrice Roman) - middle-aged and single - gets ushered through all manner of hoops as her friends try to set her up with eligible men. West End: Curzon Minima, Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre

BEDROOMS AND HALLWAYS (15, 96 mins)

In this latest offering from the *This Life* school of British film-making, Kevin McKidd's giddy Londoner runs the romantic gauntlet in the run-up to his 30th birthday. West End: ABC Piccadilly

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12, 111 mins)

Hugh Wilson's workmanlike Cold War satire has *Breadan Fraser's* last American man (called Adam, natch) emerging from the nuclear bunker that his parents hoted up in during the Cuban Missile Crisis. With Alicia Silverstone. West End: Warner Village West End

A CIVIL ACTION (15, 115 mins)

John Travolta's ambulance-chasing lawyer takes a shot at redemption in this complex and absorbing courtroom saga which nonetheless raises inevitable comparisons with Sidney Lumet's *The Verdict*. West End: Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

THE FACULTY (15, 104 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15, 106 mins)

Flimed using natural light, natural sound and a hand-held camera, *Festen* begins in a rush of pure, unfettered drama. The film's rawness is largely contrived, but by the end you're too hooked to care. West End: ABC Pantom St, Odeon Swiss Cottage. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre

GODS AND MONSTERS (15, 105 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Metro, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

HAPPINESS (18, 134 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gale Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema. Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket

HIGH ART (18, 102 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Curzon Soho, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema

AN IDEAL HUSBAND (PG, 100 mins)

Oliver Parker's film is a proficient but mechanical overhaul of Oscar Wilde's satire of middle-class hypocrisies. The sharp dialogue is rather blurred by the snappy editing but bright playing from the cast (Rupert Everett, Cate Blanchett) helps paper over the cracks. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, The Tricycle Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

PAYBACK (18, 110 mins)

Revisiting the same source novel that inspired John Boorman's *Point Blank*, this rumbling revenge thriller sends its anti-hero (Mel Gibson) on a mission to get his money and get even. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

PLUNKETT AND MACLEANE (15, 100 mins)

Robert Carlyle, Jonny Lee Miller and Liv Ullmann star in this 18th-century romp that offers noise and pop-music visuals rather than character development. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy Cinema. And local cinemas

THE RED VIOLIN (15, 132 mins)

François Girard's daisy chain of historical vignettes follows the course of a cursed violin down the centuries. Unfortunately, Girard's bitty narrative leaves the film labouring in third gear throughout. West End: Odeon Mezzanine

RETURN TO PARADISE (15, 109 mins)

In Joseph Ruben's fact-based saga, two graduate travellers return to the scene of their crimes when a buddy is busted for drugs possession in Malaysia. A classic "what would you do if?" morality play, the film still bungles its ready-made drama. West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15, 123 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

SLAM (15, 89 mins)

Even if slam-poetry's clanking rhymes make you want to "slam" the perpetrator's head in a car door, Marc Levin's drama still carries emotional force. West End: Ritzy Cinema

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG, 117 mins)

Franco Zeffirelli's *Tea with Mussolini* ambles around the houses telling its tale of doctry Brits (including Maggie Smith, Judi Dench) added in Mussolini-era Tuscany. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys. And local cinemas

THE THIN RED LINE (15, 170 mins)

Terrence Malick's long-awaited return to the director's chair results in a fabulous, fever-struck war film. While a cast of familiar faces vie for attention, all play a determined second fiddle to the film's creeping narcotic mood. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Haymarket

WAKING NED (PG, 91 mins)

A rattle-bag of comedic misadventure as two Irish scalliwags scheme to get their paws on some lottery loot. West End: Odeon West End. And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Gods and Monsters (15)

A drif speculation (right) on the last days of 1930s horror auteur James Whale (Ian McKellen), who is hypnotised by the alluring form of his Beverly Hills gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Happiness (18)

Set in New Jersey, Todd Solondz's second film is a dark comedy of loneliness and sexual deviancy that reaffirms this young writer-director's talent.

The Faculty (15)

A portrait of the artist as lesbian screw-up, Lisa Cholodenko's bitterly witty take on New York living (and dying) boasts one of the performances of the year from Ally Sheedy.

High Art (18)

A portrait of the artist as lesbian screw-up, Lisa Cholodenko's bitterly witty take on New York living (and dying) boasts one of the performances of the year from Ally Sheedy.

Shakespeare in Love (15)

This enjoyable, Oscar-laden historical romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) head an impressive cast.

ANTHONY QUINN and CHARLOTTE O'SULLIVAN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Good (Donmar Warehouse, London)

Starring Charles Dancer, CP Taylor's play about accommodations with conscience is revived in a sensitive production by Michael Grandage. To 22 May

Making Noise Quietly (Whitehall Theatre, London)

Very welcome West End run for Delorah Bruce's lovely poetic revival of Robert Holman's sensitive triptych about the emotional effects of war. To 22 May

Mamma Mia! (Prince Edward Theatre, London)

Designed to bring out the Dancing Queen in the straightest soul, this silly, enjoyable compilation musical finds flagrant plot excuses for 27 Abba golden oldies. Booking to 11 Sept

A Midsummer Night's Dream (Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford)

In Michael Boyd's beguiling staging (right), Josette Simon's Amazonian Titania is sex-on-a-very-long-legs and could devour Tina Turner for breakfast. To 9 Oct

Volpone (Swan Theatre, Stratford)

Comedies don't come any funnier or more astringent than Ben Jonson's brilliant dissection of avaricious, over-reaching egotism. To 9 Oct

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery)

Big, revelatory retrospective for the hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master), legendary for his great drip paintings, but virtually unknown here for 40 years. To 6 Jun

Thinking Aloud (Camden Arts Centre)

Sculptor Richard Wentworth curates this curious and cheering exploration of creativity in art and life: an assortment of rough drafts and try-outs. To 30 May

Andreas Gursky (Dean Gallery, Edinburgh)

Photographs 1994-98: huge, high-finish, micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our world - stock exchange floor, cityscape, hotel foyer. Visus of more than the eye can see. To 16 May

Antony Gormley's 'Field' (firstsite at Roman House, Colchester)

One of the great hits of the decade: a sea of 40,000 pint-sized clay men - obedient, expectant, menacing, and stopping dead in a line at your feet. To 23 May

ESP (IKON Gallery, Birmingham)

Contemporary artists investigate the paranormal in this weird group show (right), including Susan Hiller's frightening and wonderful video installation about the psychic powers of children. To 13 Jun



TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PANTOM STREET (PG, 104 mins)

Director: Terence Ryan
Starring: Gabriel Byrne, Bill Campbell
Neutral Ireland during WWII. Captured German and Allied soldiers are shoehorned into the same cells. Tensions erupt; stereotypes are paraded; uneasy allegiances forged. Ryan's film may have worked well on stage. Here, it looks flat and horribly schematic. West End: ABC Pantom Street

ABC PICCADILLY (PG, 104 mins)

Director: Terence Ryan
Starring: Gabriel Byrne, Bill Campbell
Neutral Ireland during WWII. Captured German and Allied soldiers are shoehorned into the same cells. Tensions erupt; stereotypes are paraded; uneasy allegiances forged. Ryan's film may have worked well on stage. Here, it looks flat and horribly schematic. West End: ABC Piccadilly

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVE (PG, 104 mins)

Director: Terence Ryan
Starring: Gabriel Byrne, Bill Campbell
Neutral Ireland during WWII. Captured German and Allied soldiers are shoehorned into the same cells. Tensions erupt; stereotypes are paraded; uneasy allegiances forged. Ryan's film may have worked well on stage. Here, it looks flat and horribly schematic. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

ABC SWISS COTTAGE (PG, 104 mins)

Director: Terence Ryan
Starring: Gabriel Byrne, Bill Campbell
Neutral Ireland during WWII. Captured German and Allied soldiers are shoehorned into the same cells. Tensions erupt; stereotypes are paraded; uneasy allegiances forged. Ryan's film may have worked well on stage. Here, it looks flat and horribly schematic. West End: ABC Swiss Cottage

ABC TOTTENHAM CT RD (PG, 104 mins)

Director: Terence Ryan
Starring: Gabriel Byrne, Bill Campbell
Neutral Ireland during WWII. Captured German and Allied soldiers are shoehorned into the same cells. Tensions erupt; stereotypes are paraded; uneasy allegiances forged. Ryan's film may have worked well on stage. Here, it looks flat and horribly schematic. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road

ABC VICTORIA ST (PG, 104 mins)

Director: Terence Ryan
Starring: Gabriel Byrne, Bill Campbell
Neutral Ireland during WWII. Captured German and Allied soldiers are shoehorned into the same cells. Tensions erupt; stereotypes are paraded; uneasy allegiances forged. Ryan's film may have worked well on stage. Here, it looks flat and horribly schematic. West End: ABC Victoria Street

ABC WHITELEYS (PG, 104 mins)

Director: Terence Ryan
Starring: Gabriel Byrne, Bill Campbell
Neutral Ireland during WWII. Captured German and Allied soldiers are shoehorned into the same cells. Tensions erupt; stereotypes are paraded; uneasy allegiances forged. Ryan's film may have worked well on stage. Here, it looks flat and horribly schematic. West End: ABC Whiteleys

ABC WILKINSON RD (PG, 104 mins)

Director: Terence Ryan
Starring: Gabriel Byrne, Bill Campbell
Neutral Ireland during WWII. Captured German and Allied soldiers are shoehorned into the same cells. Tensions erupt; stereotypes are paraded; uneasy allegiances forged. Ryan's film may have worked well on stage. Here, it looks flat and horribly schematic. West End: ABC Wilkinsons Road

ABC WINDMILL (PG, 104 mins)

Director: Terence Ryan
Starring: Gabriel Byrne, Bill Campbell
Neutral Ireland during WWII. Captured German and Allied soldiers are shoehorned into the same cells. Tensions erupt; stereotypes are paraded; uneasy allegiances forged. Ryan's film may have worked well on stage. Here, it looks flat and horribly schematic. West End: ABC Windmill

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Director: Terence Ryan
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Neutral Ireland during WWII. Captured German and Allied soldiers are shoehorned into the same cells. Tensions erupt; stereotypes are paraded; uneasy allegiances forged. Ryan's film may have worked well on stage. Here, it looks flat and horribly schematic. West End: ABC Windmill

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Director: Terence Ryan
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Message in a Bottle 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.50pm

Payback 1.35pm, 4.40pm, 7.45pm, 10.50pm

Shakespeare in Love 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm

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2.20 On the Male (#7700691) **2.30 Holyoaks**
 (#27981) **3.00 Ready or Not** (#518252) **3.30**
City Guys (#397926) **4.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air**
 (#228233) **4.30 Ward Story** (#24417) **5.00**
In the House (#520097) **5.30 Saved by the Bell -**
the New Class (#248097) **6.00 Sweet Valley**
High (#238601) **6.30 Sugar's Real Life Stories**
 #262321 **7.00 Benji** (#29922) **7.00 USA**

[illegible]

4.30 **THE 100** (8/30/2017) 1.00 **City Guys** (7/30/15)
4.30 **Saved by the Bell - the New Class**
USA (8/4/89-10.00) **Holyrots** (7/55/50) 10.30
USA (8/77/52) 10.00 **Hung Time** (7/00/50)
USA (7/97/50) 10.00 **Boyz n the City** (7/97/50)

5.00 **ARENA**
THE **Boyz** **From** **the** **Boyz** **In** **83** (8/32/83) 3.65
Good **Misc** (26/44/36) 5.00 **Even** **Further** **Ahead** (8/85/5)
Aboard (4/25/3) 5.00 **Even** **Further** **Aboard** (8/85/5)
When **the** **Boyz** **Come** **Back** **In** **87/07** (7/87/07)
8.00 **THE** **Boyz** **From** **the** **Boyz** **In** **83** (8/32/83) 3.65
2.50 **Even** **Further** **Aboard** (8/42/55) 8.05
The **Goodies** (8/33/51) 8.40 **That** **Was** **the** **Week** **That** **Was** (8/84/51) 10.20 **Even** **Further** **Aboard** (8/85/5)
8.00 **THE** **Boyz** **From** **the** **Boyz** **In** **83** (8/32/83) 3.65
1.00 **The** **Goodies** (8/70/38) 12.00 **Good** **Misc** (16/28/18) 1.00 **When** **the** **Boyz** **Come** **Back** **In** (8/76/34)
1.55 **Even** **Further** **Aboard** (29/51/30) 2.25 **Even** **Further** **Aboard** (8/42/21) 3.60 **Good**

5.00 **GOLD**
Goodies (8/35/18) 3.20 **Neighborhood**
7/39/45 3.55 **2.50** **THE** **Boyz** **From** **the** **Boyz** **In** **83** (8/32/83) 3.65

The BA (756189), 1.00 The BA (758221) 3.00
The House of Eliot (724078) 1.00 Rhoda
(754459) 1.00 Days (65383) 1.00
The Young Ones (758222) 1.00 Basil &
Gladys (757909) 1.00 Bugs (543647) 2.00 Dallas
(1061078) 2.55 The BA (568948) 3.25 The BA
(544454) 3.55 Extras (558004) 3.00
The Young Ones (758222) 1.00 The Young
6.00 Dynasty (544981) 7.00 The Comedy
Alternative: Some Mothers Do Awe Em
(554447) 4.00 The Comedy Alternative: Last
of the Summer Wine (554447) 4.00
Alternative: Death Army (802893) 3.00
Pools and Horses (546222) 3.40 Fillet: The
Fish (7579) (734821) 1.25 The BA (552207)
The Young Ones (758222) 1.00 The Young
Lies (545475) 1.25 The Young Ones
1985(301) 2.05 The Young Ones (758345)
2.45-7.00 Shopping with Screenplay (3045767)

UK HORIZONS

UK STUDENTS

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(7291233) 11.00 Ground Force (693947) 11.00
 George Hamilton's Paradise Gardens (641965)
 12.00-1.00 Antiques Roadshow (440356)
TV-14
 6.00 Power Rangers (539445) 6.00 Pop-
 Culture (529748) 6.00 VH-1 Update (504290)
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 Ripside (637504) 1.00 VH-1 Sports (672845)
 2.00-6.00 VH-1 Late Shift (452762)

[illegible]

ROSSWORD

DOWN

- 1 Sacred songs (6)
- 2 Corner (4)
- 3 Obedient follower (3-3)
- 4 Metallic element (6)
- 5 Formerly (4)
- 6 Choose (6)
- 7 Part of bed (9)
- 8 Matrix figure; nit (6)

11 Freshwater fish (5)
12 Rub out (5)
15 Decorous (6)
16 Plain (6)
17 Musical composition (6)
18 Simpleton (6)
21 Prevaricator (4)
22 Fil of fever (4)

Is Censic Crossword:
1m, 9 Pedal, 10 Custard, 11 Amp, 13 Trade-
12 Rub, 22 Abusive, 23 Theme, 25 Eyeglass,
26 Upsew, 6 Hoar-frost, 7 Modest, 8 Flat,
9 Abbeys, 10 Eats, 21 Breve, 24 Era.

DOWN

1 Sacred songs (6)
2 Corner (4)
3 Obedient follower (3-3)

- 4 Metacnic element (6)
- 5 Formerly (4)
- 6 Choose (6)
- 7 Part of bed (9)
- 8 Metric linear unit (9)
- 11 Freshwater fish (5)
- 12 Rub out (5)
- 15 Decorous (6)
- 16 Plain (6)
- 17 Musical composition (6)
- 18 Simpleton (6)
- 21 Prevaricator (4)
- 22 Fit of fever (4)

6 Across Crossword:

1m, 9 Podal, 10 Custard, 11 Amp, 13 Trade-
Tub, 23 Abusive, 25 Theme, 26 Pyreglass,
5 Upsew, 6 Hoar-frost, 7 Modiste, 8 Flat,
9 Abbeys, 19 Eats, 21 Breve, 24 Era.

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1 Sacred songs (6)
2 Corner (4)
3 Obedient follower (3-3)

- 4 Metacnic element (6)
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- 15 Decorous (6)
- 16 Plain (6)
- 17 Musical composition (6)
- 18 Simpleton (6)
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1m, 9 Podal, 10 Custard, 11 Amp, 13 Trade-
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